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ILLUST. 鶴崎貴大
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異世界魔王と
召喚少女の
奴隷魔術

The King of
Darkness Another
World Story

Isekai Maou to Shoukan Shoujo Dorei Majutsu

Vol.5

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彼女は肩を震わせ、両目を見開く。
その瞳から、ぽろぽろと透明な雫がこぼれ、形のいい頬をつたい落ちた。
かすかに声が震える。

「お……お帰りなさいませ……
マイ・マスター」



Her shoulders quivered, and both of her eyes went wide open. Large

transparent drops spilled out from those eyes, and fell down along her well-shaped cheeks. Her voice faintly trembled. 「W.....Welcome back.....My Master.」



Beads of sweat surfaced on the girls' skin. The drops went along the top of their smooth skin and fell. Going *Haa.....Haa.....*, they panted. They had flushed faces, and moist eyes. While gazing at them, Diablo felt like he was starting to have a strange feeling.



ホルンが目を見開く。

「スカートっすか!?
しかも、ミニスカっすか!？」

Horun's eyes went wide open. 「It's a skirt -ssu ka!? Moreover, a mini-skirt -ssu ka!？」

Prologue

A white finger, flicked some slightly white and cloudy hot water.

Ripples spread out, and reached the body that was submerged in the bathtub. The waves hit two well-rounded bulges.

"Fuu....."

Leaking out a long breath, the woman leaned her head on the marble. Her wet scarlet hair spread out.

She was Zircon Tower's Feudal Lord, Farnis Lamnites.

Something like the splendid bathing room that was near the top of the tower did not exist in any building in the royal capital. It was that extravagant of a facility. Recuperating her strength here, she would once again be able to face the exhausting work as leader tomorrow as well.

What Lamnites thought about was—the Magician that she confronted in town during the day.

"You, what do you plan on doing once you find that Magician?"

"If they're a useful fellow, I will make them my subordinate! If they won't obey me, then I thought I would teach them the difference in our strength!"

"You damned troublesome fellow."

To call Lamnites, the leader of this territory, a "troublesome fellow"

"Fufu.....He was a strange man."

The magic that repulsed the 《Sand Whale》 that was heading to the town, it was something so high-ranked that she had never seen before. Most likely, there was no one even in the royal capital's Magician Guild that could use that sort of Chemical Elemental Magic. She had no doubts about his extraordinary talent. However, those eyes, they somehow looked like that of a young boy's. The unselfishness that was unsuited for his ability, and behavior that couldn't be called humility, she couldn't help but feel incongruity from it.

Lamnites caressed her own well-rounded breasts. Seeing these, that man looked like he was bashful.

".....Going as far as taking along slaves such as those, he couldn't possibly not have experience with women, right?"

Come to think of it, I forgot to ask his name—is what she thought.

She decided to have it investigated.

She had a personality where she would immediately take action once she made up her mind.

While still submerged in the bathtub, she raised her voice.

"Someone!"

Normally, there would be an immediate reply from a chamberlain in wait outside.

That, didn't come.

Feeling a strange uneasiness, Lamnites stood up inside of the bathtub.

Making splashes, drops of water fell from her scarlet hair and her body that was abundant with curves.

Her slackened senses tensed up. When she exposed her skin to the atmosphere, she was able to sense something that she hadn't noticed up until now.

—What is this? This sticky presence!?

Lamnites stretched her hand out.

The presence that was like mud, it approached with terrifying speed.

She hurriedly grabbed her Revolver Magi Gun. She turned around.



Some jet black person stood on the surface of the bathtub's water. Lamnites pulled the trigger before she could confirm its identity.

The gunshot resounded.

The Magi Gun's bullet certainly hit it but.....

Their complexion didn't change a single bit.

It was a man.

His age was at least in the twenties. With good looks that could be called beautiful, he had white skin, a slender chin, almond eyes, and even the bridge of his nose was good.

His clothes were that of a tuxedo that felt was if he were going to a party. The style was slightly old though.

If it was just that, he would simply be a handsome young man that looked like he would be popular in high society.

However, that guy was standing on the water's surface.

On his back, he had the wings of a bat.

Even though the bullet had hit his left breast, not even blood came out.

He wasn't a person.

Lamnites consciously calmed her breathing. She was nude, but she didn't have a personality where she would feel shyness, and this wasn't the time for that.

"Are you, a Demonic Being?"

"Fufufu.....That is exactly it, beautiful Ojou-san."

"What dribble. I am not of an age to be called "Ojou-san". To think I would allow a Demonic Being's trespassing on this tower."

"It was simple. It's because unlike the people of the Races, I can fly through the sky, you know?"

"There should have been surveillance and guards as well....."

"Couldn't it have been that they were all tired? They were soundly asleep.....an eternal sleep that is."

"You bastard!"

Lamnites discharged a second shot.

It should have hit, but as expected, there were no signs of being effective on the opponent.

—Does this mean that he is invulnerable!?

She concealed her feelings of unease.

However, she was nude. Her weapon was only the Magi Gun meant for self-defense that she held in her right hand. She wasn't even able to bluff.

The young Demonic Being man made a wry smile.

"You won't even make a scratch with that sort of thing. Well, please calm down. Tonight, I came to talk with you after all."

"Mu.....A Demonic Being, wants to talk.....?"

They were a bunch that would kill people of the Races on sight. There was no room for dialogue or discussion. Wasn't he that sort of existence?

While the other party was still floating, he took a position as if sitting down on a chair.

He crossed his long and slender legs.

"First, why don't we do some self-introductions—I am called Vanaknes."[\[1\]](#)

"This is my first time being introduced to a Demonic Being. However, there is surely no need for me to say my name, is there?"

"Of course. The one that came to visit is me after all."

"What is your business?"

Vanaknes lightly hit his hands together, and made an applause.

"First, let me express words of praise. You did well to drive away the great whale. I was astonished to see that the people of the Races were able to perform such a feat."

Lamnites opened her eyes wide.

"ツ.....The one that turned the 《Sand Whale》 towards the town, are you saying that it was you?"

"That is correct. It is because I have someone that is able to manipulate Demonic Beasts. But we went through hardship with the great whale, you know? To think that you would drive it away, it was unexpected."

"So it was unrelated to the sand ship that was running away."

"We made use of it but.....That was all."

To be able to manipulate that great of a Demonic Beast—He is an outrageously formidable enemy.

However, Lamnites didn't tear down her attitude of having leeway.

"Hmph.....So you intended on annihilating Zircon Tower City using an extra-large Demonic Beast. As I thought, it seems that my town is hard to attack even for Demonic Beings, isn't it? How pleasant."

Vanaknes made a wry smile and shook his head side-to-side.

"No, no, that was my own way of showing mercy, you know?"

"Hou, I'm surprised. So even Demonic Beings can jest."

".....I had thought that rather than being slowly killed by my military forces, you would probably prefer the suffering to end in an instant by being swallowed up together with the town by the whale."

She couldn't allow that comment to pass.

"Military forces, you say?"

"Yes, I—have been appointed as the Demon King Army's generalissimo."

The muscles along Lamnites' spine trembled. Her skin had goosebumps.

"It couldn't be....."

The Demon King's Army had collapsed together with the previous Demon King's annihilation. For a Demonic Being to say that now, it meant that it was newly organized.

"Having said this much, I think you already understand but.....Demon King-sama's revival has been completed."

"Wha!?"

The people of the Races had long fought in order to prevent the Demon King's revival.

However, if what this one was saying was true, then the Demon King has already started taking action. It meant that the long and painful war between the people of the Races and the Demonic Beings would start once again. Once the Demon King revives, the strength of Demonic Beings and Demonic Beasts would increase—that is what was said.

This Demonic Being called Vanaknes, he could manipulate a gigantic Demonic Beast, and not even a scratch could be made with Lamnites's bullet. He was awarded strength from the revived Demon King. She was able to understand if she thought of it like that.

—The rumor that the Demon King's crest was spread out in the sky at Faltra City.....It would seem that it wasn't just some prank.

Lamnites nodded.

"So you've come to declare the Demon King's revival."

"She has already revived. However, I have not come just to tell you that."

"Hurry up and tell me everything. I am not one with much patience."

"I understand. Well then, let me say this frankly—Please surrender."

That was a proposal that was way too unexpected.

To think that a Demonic Being would offer negotiations.

Lamnites shrugged her shoulders.

"HA! To think that a Demonic Being would demand our surrender!? That is quite amusing. And what will happen by making us surrender? Do you intend on governing a town of the Races? I would like to see that. Whether or no it can be governed by the Demon King."

"Fufufu.....Her Majesty's rule is merciful and fair."

"Hohou?"

"The people of the Races, we shall have them all commit suicide. That is surely much more merciful than being eaten alive by Demonic Beasts."

In her mind, Lamnites felt a bit of disappointment, and exaltation.

As she thought, they were incompatible with Demonic Beings. There was no room for discussion, was her disappointment. And then, exaltation for the fighting that would surely come from now on. Her fighting spirit welled up.

"It seems that Demonic Beings are the ones among the creatures affiliated with evil that can interpret human speech. Well then, to you who should comprehend human speech, I shall teach you words suitable as a reply to this sort of situation—"

"So that means I will receive an answer to my proposal. And what might it be?"

"It is 'you damned fool'."

Vanaknes stiffened up while still having a smile.

Before long, that gentle smile collapsed and crumbled. His lips tore apart, and countless fangs lined up within could be seen.

"Fuhahaha! In that case, let the eating start with you!"

"Do not take me lightly, you scum—《Flare Bullet》!!"

She added magic on top of the magical power that was endowed on the Magi Gun's bullets.

And then, she drove all of the three remaining shots in the cylinder into him.

An explosion was raised.

Vanaknes' figure was engulfed in black smoke.

Lamnites jumped out from the bathtub. She had even stronger equipment prepared outside of the bathing room. If she used those, then—

However, she was thrust away by the thing that flew out from the black smoke.

She was thrown into a wall.

"Kuhah.....!?"

—What just happened?

The black smoke cleared up. What had bashed Lamnites was Vanaknes' fist. His arm stretched out long as if it were an elephant's trunk.

Going *shuru shuru*, it returned to its original length.

"Fufufu.....So it was a magic endowed bullet. That was quite good, it worked splendidly. That's true, you know?"

His tuxedo was burning. Did it only burn his clothing?

Or could damage really have gotten through to him?

"However, unfortunately.....I am much too strong. I do not have a measurement method but.....If I were to speak with the people of the Races' scale, I suppose it would certainly be at level 160."

"Wha!? Do not screw around with me!"

In order to manage the grades of requests towards Adventurers, there was a measuring system for strength with a scale called level.

However, that was just something that strong people acknowledge, and went up to 100.

And since the Hero Allen, who was said to be the strongest among the people of the Races, proclaimed that "he is level 150" in the past, it became an accepted opinion that the limit of the people of the Races was 150.

—So in other words, he is stronger than anyone of the people of Races, is what he wants to say.

It was irritating, but right now, she didn't have a means to counterattack.

Lamnites put her left hand on the wall and supported her body up. It took her all to somehow not collapse and support herself.

Did she dislocate her right shoulder with that last attack? She couldn't put in any strength due to the intense pain.

She had dropped the Magi Gun. It was useless though, since there weren't any remaining bullets in it anyway.

Vanaknes drew near her.

"I've changed my mind. It seems you are stronger than I thought. And I like strong women."

"What was that?"

With a hand where only the appearance wasn't any different from that of a

Human's, Vanaknes touched Lamnites' skin. He traced the curve of the bulges on her chest.

The Demonic Beings nail touched the tip of her breast.

With a *guh*, he pinched it.

A sharp stimulus made the muscles along Lamnites' spine tremble.

"Kuh....."

At the spot the nail touched, a drop of blood rose up.

Vanaknes curved the ends of his lips.

"Fufufu.....Tearing from just a touch, even though you're fragile and ephemeral like this, you are strong enough to inflict a wound on me. To me, that sort of woman is attractive and suits me. "

"Shut up. You're making me nauseous."

"Even that confidence, it isn't bad at all. Even though your life would be gone if I were to pierce that soft chest with my fist just like this."

"Go ahead and try it. When you try to smash my heart, I will bite your windpipe to a thousand pieces."

"Farnis Lamnites.....I will not kill you. Let's add you to my harem."

Vanaknes' large hand touched the nape of Lamnites' neck.

Her chin was grasped.

He pushed her against the wall.

Lamnites tried to punch Vanaknes' face with her left fist that she could still move but—he easily caught her wrist.

To begin with, this was an opponent where not even the bullet of her Magi Gun could injure him. A bare handed attack probably would even give him mental anguish.

Slowly, Vanaknes' face got closer and—

"Lamnites-sama!"

A shout was made from the side.

At the same time, a bullet charged with magic was fired. An explosion happened.

Vanaknes laughed scornfully.

"To obstruct an act of love.....That is very boorish."

The one that charged into the bathing room was one of her subordinate knights. He attacked by firing a large type Magi Gun in rapid succession.

"You damned Demonic Being, don't touch Lamnites-sama!"

"This isn't bad, since the more love is obstructed, the more roused up it gets. I wouldn't mind going against you here, but I do not want to get the precious lovely woman that I found to get dragged into it—I suppose I will withdraw for tonight."

Even while taking the Magi Gun attacks, Vanaknes kept a nonchalant air about him, and gently floated up.

With his hand separating from her, Lamnites could finally exhale.

"Kuh.....So you're running away!?"

"I am letting you off with this, is what I suppose is the correct way to call it. On the evening of the next full moon, I shall come to take you away. Be sure to choose a wedding dress, okay, Farnis?"

"Do not say my name so imprudently, you dullard!"

"Fufufu.....Next time, I shall have your all."

Saying that, Vanaknes licked the red drop that was on the tip of his nail. It was the nail that pricked the tip of Lamnites' breast earlier.

"Kuh....."

She reflexively covered her breast with one hand.

Going *Fufufu*, Vanaknes leaked out a laughter.

He waved one hand.

In the outer wall of the sturdy tower that could withstand even cannon fire, a hole was easily opened up.

Lamnites opened her eyes wide in astonishment.

—So, without getting even a scratch while drawing Magi Gun bullets, he smashed the wall of this tower with one hand.

"Damned monster....."

After opening up a hole in the outer wall, the black clothed Demonic Being flew out. Spreading out his bat-like wings, he vanished into the starless night sky as if melting into it.

The knight rushed over.

"Are you alright!?"

"Of course. Who do you think I am?"

She still couldn't move her right arm. It was hard to say that she was alright, but Lamnites declared that. The emotional humiliation was larger than her body's

injuries.

Although her equipment was lacking, it was a unilateral defeat. Her fist trembled with rage.

The knight knelt down.

"I am terribly sorry! To think we would allow an invasion to go as far as Lamnites-sama's bathing room.....!!"

"What of the guards?"

"It seems that several of them are breathing but....."

It seemed that Vanaknes' words were not a lie. So a majority of them were killed.

Some others came in carrying Lamnites' clothing and equipment.

By nature, aristocrats would make the servants dress and change their clothes. She had no opposition to having her skin seen by others.

However, unlike the ones that usually assisted her, the knight never had the chance to lay his eyes on Lamnites' nude body.

The knight that came to her aid blushed and hung his head down.

If she remembered correctly, his name was—

"It was Henrick, was it not."

"Yes!"

"You did well to come rushing in."

"Y, yes! The fact that you are alright, Lamnites-sama, is the best news of all!"

He deeply bowed his head while still hanging it down.

He had gone red down to his neck.

Maybe due to the harsh region called the Former Demon King Territory, there were many vulgar fellows among Lamnites' subordinates. It seemed that there was a rare innocent man among them.

"Henrick, gather all of the unit commanding officers and the heads of the Adventurer's Guild and the Magician's Guild. There is something that needs to be reported quickly. Those that are sleeping are to be roused out of bed."

"Understood!"

He stood up and saluted, but since he was still in front of Lamnites as she was in the middle of changing clothes, he looked like he was troubled as to where to place his eyes.

Translator's Notes:

[\[1\]](#) Pronounced Va-nak-nes. Original: バナクネス

Chapter 1: Trying Out Going to the Dungeon

Part 1

Diablo put the altar that he made float with magic down in the outskirts of Zircon Tower City. Since it was somewhat distant from the town, there weren't any figures of people.

This area was mostly desert. At most, there were boulders of various sizes scattered about here and there.

The sun was already ascending from the horizon.

Last night—

Rem and Lumachina were taken prisoner by the Head of the Holy Knights, Baduta. Diablo marched into his underground facility, defeated Baduta, and rescued the two of them.

However, a problem occurred.

Rem raised her voice.

"Lumachina, please get ahold of yourself!"

"Y, yes.....I am.....fine."

She had a voice that sounded like she wasn't fine, but she somehow made a response

On top of the altar that was lowered onto the ground, a young lady was completely crouched down. She was the High Chief Priest Lumachina Weselia. She was wearing priest clothing that had white as the basic theme, but that cloth was opened up, and her thigh was exposed.

A dark purple nevus had risen to the surface of her skin.

—The Marked Death Disease.

It is said that one would reach death once nine nevi had risen to the surface of the skin.

This wasn't an illness, but a curse.

It was a curse that Baduta, who dyed his hand in wickedness despite having the position of Head of the Holy Knights who protected the Church, produced with Ritual Magic. It is said that it can only be dispelled through the 《miracles》 of priests.

However, Lumachina was different.

This young lady possesses an extraordinary power of miracles, but on the other hand, she herself is unable to receive any blessings from all miracles. Whether it be the healing of injuries, the recovery from illness, or the dispelling of curses.....

As things were now, when the ninth nevus would rise to the surface, Lumachina would surely lose her life.

—I won't let that happen, is what Diablo thought.

Lumachina wasn't a person who could be allowed to lose her life in a place like this.

It was because she possessed that paranormal ability that she was set at the Church's most prominent position. However, she was proactive and honest, and she did her best to try and carry out righteousness.

Learning of the Church's corruption, she tried to control and regulate it. She did the right thing.

As a result, her life was targeted by those in the Church that indulged in selfish desires, and now she was afflicted with a curse that would bring her to death.

—Isn't that just absurd!? It's so sad!

Diablo happened to know of only one method that could save Lumachina.

An item that could dispel the 《Marked Death Disease》 was supplied in one of MMORPG Cross Reverie's limited time events.

Though, in the game, it was an item that “cures Marked Death Disease and only causes an event of being thanked by the villagers” and was useless in battle. However, it should be useful to Lumachina as she is now.

A priest's prayers didn't have an effect on her, but it was confirmed that items such as potions were effective.

That item is called the 《White Cow Statue》.

Diablo stored it in his warehouse. According to the setting of the MMORPG Cross Reverie, the warehouse should be in the 《Treasury》 deep in the dungeon that he created in his personal space.

And then, according to the information of the Grasswalker Adventurer Horun, it seems that Diablo's dungeon was close to this town.

—No choice but to go.

He wanted to save Lumachina.

Horun raised up one hand.

He had rabbit ears and a rabbit tail, and he had the outward appearance of a boy. The race called Grasswalker would continue to stay having the outward appearance of a child no matter how old they got. They were a race that were nimble and excelled in magic and covert actions. However, they fell behind in sturdiness and physical strength.

"Danna, suddenly deciding to go into the dungeon, what happened -ssu ka? I mean sure, it'd make me happy though -ssu."

"Something indispensable for Lumachina, is within a certain dungeon."

"C, could it be, do you mean the newly discovered dungeon -ssu ka? I think that it can only be about that -ssu."

"Umu. From what I heard from your story, it would be appropriate to think that."

Lumachina asked a question.

"Diablo-sama, could that be about, being able to cure the 《Marked Death Disease》?"

She sent an imploring gaze at him.

He was unable to affirm that it would absolutely be there. However, going by Horun's story, Diablo was able to guess that it was the dungeon that he created in his personal space.

If that's the case, then the event item, the 《White Cow Statue》, should also be there. It should also be able to dispel the Marked Death Disease.

Everything was a possibility

He didn't say that it was certain.

He might have to honestly tell them about those circumstances.

—However, to say ambiguous information without any confidence, that isn't Demon King-like! It isn't Kami-sama-like either, is it!

"Believe in me! If you desire it, then I shall grant you a treasured article that will cause a true miracle!"

Lumachina prostrated herself before him on the ground.

"Yes, I believe in you, Diablo-sama! There is not even a faint shadow in my faith in you!"

Those probably weren't just words. She held immense piety towards Kami-sama. It was for that reason that she was blessed with an uncommon power of

miracles.

—If there really is a Kami-sama, then don't leave such a good girl like this and properly protect her.

Diablo made a sigh in his mind.

The current Lumachina is convinced that Diablo is "Kami-sama hiding his identity". It is because when she prayed for salvation to Kami-sama, Diablo accidentally appeared.

Though in truth, he was just a "hikikomori gamer that acted as a Demon King"

In any case, if he were to leave her like this, Lumachina would be killed by the curse within a few days. Even if it couldn't be said that it would be the right one for certain, there was surely no other choice but to head to the dungeon.

And if they were to go, preparations would be needed.

Maybe due to the long trip, or maybe due to the Marked Death Disease, Lumachina's physical condition looked bad. It might be best to have her wait at the inn.

"For the moment, I guess we should return to town and prepare."

Diablo had almost no experience in mobilizing with a large number of people. It wasn't meant to be a consultation, but him speaking to himself.

However, the young Pantherian girl, Rem, tilted her head.

".....I wonder about that?"

Normal Pantherians possessed reddish type hair and leopard print ears and tails, but she was a rare black panther. Her hair, ears, and tail were all a sleek black color.

It wasn't like it was because of this, but her body was lacking in undulations for a fourteen year old Pantherian female, and was slender and tightened.

To try and talk in detail with that Rem, Diablo prompted her.

"I allow it, say what you will if you have something bothering you."

".....Earlier, we displayed magic in a considerable showy manner, and astonished the inhabitants of the town. If we were to return to Zircon Tower City just like this, I was wondering if the residents would take notice of us. By some chance, we might be asked about the situation by the vigilance committee or the armed forces."

"That would be troublesome."

"I do think that we should report the Head of the Holy Knights Baduta's misdeed, but considering Lumachina's condition, right now, it might be best if we head to the dungeon first. Since it was quite a major incident, with us being important people concerned with it, by the time we would be able to move about freely.....There's no telling just how much time would that take."

Rem was intellectual. She also had an abundance of experience as an Adventurer, and there were many times where her proposals were appropriate. Certainly, he was able to agree with her concerns.

Pa The one that raised their hand was Shera.

"I agree~! Let's hurry and save Lumachina-chan!"

Shera L. Greenwood was an Elf. Moreover, she was a princess. Though, right now, she is seeking freedom and is in the middle of running away from home. Her mystical beauty and her body with undulations, it seemed as if she were sculpted and even some godliness could be sensed.

However, she was a disappointing girl where her thoughtlessness would be exposed when she spoke.

—Should we head to the dungeon immediately?

That would probably have less troubles.

However, for Diablo, he wanted to have a bit of rest at the town.

Due to his battle with the Head of the Holy Knights Baduta, at one point, his HP had been reduced down to 1.

Because of the effect of the 《Distorted Crown》 that he had equipped, he was able to recover even while they were just standing there, but that was something that went slowly.

Even if he were to use up all of the HP Recovery Potions that he had on hand, it probably wouldn't even recover half of his HP.

Making some with the materials that he obtained in Faltra City, it would only go up to R (rare) class potions. If they were to think about trying to recover Diablo's HP, a potion made from SSR (double super rare) materials would be needed.

With his current equipment, even if he had a week, it might be impossible to get a complete recovery.

It was astonishing that he was alive even though he was pierced through the heart but.....it truly is magic.

—In a gamer’s perspective, first would be to recover though.

The result of going along with the story and heading to the next objective without healing, it would often be a pattern where a fairly strong enemy would be waiting, and the player being easily defeated. Even in cases where the development of the tale was “hurry on to the next one”, properly making every preparation was part of the basics.

He was worried about Machina’s situation, but the nevi shouldn’t increase to nine in just one or two days.....

Come to think of it, Lumachina can use Healing Miracles. Moreover, it was most likely of the highest level in the Lifelia Kingdom.

Going “No no”, Diablo shook his head left and right.

Diablo’s equipment, the 《Demon King’s Ring》, would end up reacting to even Healing Miracles. He could receive the healing if he took off the ring but.....Rem and the others should be thinking that the Magic Reflection is the special ability of a Demon King. Divulging that it was actually an effect of the ring would be way too uncool.

Besides, a Demon King getting healed by a priest went against his mental image of Demon Kings. Of course, it would further go against it if it was Kami-sama doing it.

As an efficiency troll Gamer that prioritizes efficiency, it would be completely alright but.....

If he were to expose his original self without going along with his created character of a Demon King role play, he would be come unable to hold a decent conversation. It was something like challenging a snowy mountain while naked.

—That’s out of the question.

Putting that aside, there was also a point to Rem’s worry. If they were to return to town, it seemed like the unnecessary troubles would increase. In particular, it didn’t seem like he would be able to get through to Zircon Tower City’s Feudal Lord, Farnis Lamnites.....

"Diablo, over there!"

Rem pointed something out.

When he looked, black dots that looked like sesame seeds increased in the horizon. He noticed that there were things that were raising up a cloud of dust

and approaching.

"What is that?"

".....They seem to be the army's sand ships."

Rem the Pantherian had good eyes. Even though they were still far away, it seemed that she could identify the crest that was drawn on the sand ships' sails.

Hearing the word army, Shera and Horun made frightened-looking faces.

Rem made a follow-up report.

".....On the sails of the especially large sand ship, there's a crest with two guns piled up.....That is, by some chance, could it be the Feudal Lord's ship? It's the same as the one that was printed on her armor."

"Hmph, that leisurely fellow."

Diablo showed a Demon King-like haughty attitude.

However, he was feeling shaken on the inside.

His HP was lower than 10%, and to go against a high level Magi Gunner, to say it concretely, was relatively bad!

Even though his MP was also meager.....

If a Magician were the opponent, Magic Reflection was possible with Diablo's 《Demon King's Ring》, but it had no effect on a Magi Gun's bullets.

However, panicking and running away here, would really be uncool.

—Somehow, I need to avoid battle while maintaining the majesty of a Demon King!

While breathing heavily, Lumachina stood up.

"It would seem, that Lord Lamnites is coming.....I will tell her of the situation."

".....It would be nice if she understands though."

Rem looked worried.

"If I make a heartfelt explanation, there is no mistake that it will surely get through to her."

Lumachina wasn't stupid, but she has a tendency to believe in other people too much. Even if she were to make a heartfelt talk with her, the possibility of a bullet packed with magic coming back at her was high.

She was that sort of dangerous opponent.

While thinking about this and that, the Zircon Tower City army surrounded them with sand ships. The number was about 10 ships, so were there about 2000 soldiers?

As expected, on the deck of the especially large sand ship, the figure of Feudal Lord Lamnites was there.

Equipped with a mantle endowed with Flight Magic called 《Deep Crimson Wings》, she wore armor hemmed with gold.

However, there was a difference from last time.

Her right arm was hung with a bandage.

—Did she get injured? Did something happen?

Lamnites looked down at them from the deck of the ship.

"There was a report that you appeared from the bottom of the ground. There are many suspecting that you are the Demon King. Answer without any deceit—Are you the Demon King?"

It was a question that went straight to the point.

With a *fuh*, Diablo laughed scornfully.

Once he was asked that question, the answer was already decided.

If he could come up with a clever comeback here, then he wouldn't say that he had a communication disorder. He wouldn't live the life of a game addict NEET as someone incompatible with society, nor would he have been a solo Player even in those games.

Above all else, when asked "Are you the Demon King?", a Demon King that would answer with "I don't know who that is" would be the lowest and uncoolest.

He boldly replied.

"I am the Demon King of another world, Diablo! I will not hesitate to say that to anyone!"

He was holding his head on the inside.

—Ugyaaah! Not good!? Is that not good!?

Zawa The soldiers on the sand ships made a commotion. There were even some that drew their swords.

Rem made an uneasy face.

"W, was that alright, Diablo? To say something like that.....!?"

—Was that really no good!?

Shera tilted her head.

"By some chance, even if you are a Demon King from another world, wouldn't you be subjugated by the army, Diablo?"

—Would I be subjugated!?

In order to hide his fear inside of him, Diablo made a loud laughter.

"Fuu—hahaha! I will neither run away nor hide! Those that wish to die should come forth! I shall teach you true fear! "

"Awawa....."

Horun was trembling.

Diablo was also trembling on the inside.

Feudal Lord Lamnites raised her left hand up high.

"Hmph.....You barked well. Just as you wish, we shall give you ruin. Go and continue your sleep once more, Demon King! All hands, at the ready!"

The soldiers riding on the sand ships pointed Magi Guns at him.

He was surprised. Magi Gunners are a high class of Archers. Unless they had skilled hands that extended their abilities as Magicians on top of being skilled as Archers, one wouldn't become a Magi Gunner.

There were this many of them!?

—Come to think of it, even Summoners were overwhelmingly more popular than in the game. There might be some kind of reason that made a majority of Archers into Magi Gunners.

If he were to be attacked all at once by this many people, there was a high possibility that it would shave off the rest of his current HP. It would depend on their level but.....

—I guess I'll have to annihilate them before I get struck!?

"Wait a moment!"

The one that stepped forward was, Lumachina.

"I am the most prominent one of the Church—The High Chief Priest, Lumachina Weselia. Although this person declares himself to be a Demon King, he is not an antagonist of the Races, and is not an opponent that you should point your weapons towards!"

Lamnites glared at her.

"Hahn! The boss of the swindlers, is being backed by the Demon King!?"

"Surely there is no way that you would not know that this gentleman had repelled the Demonic Beast that drew near Zircon Tower City. Why would an antagonist save the town."

"It seems that that 《Sand Whale》 was manipulated by the Demonic Beings. To begin with, isn't it suspicious that he was able to repulse it with mere Chemical Elemental Magic!"

"Diablo-sama is an excellent Magician. Saving this town, saving me, now and up until now, he has fought in order to help people!"

"In that case, why does he take the name of Demon King!?"

—It's because if I don't do a Demon King role play, I can't talk other than saying "Ah—" or "Uh—"!

There wouldn't be any trouble if he were to say that, but whenever he tried to talk with his own words, his voice didn't come out.

If he were to expose his true self, and then be disdained, scorned, or scolded..... When he thought of that, he would freeze up.

If it was an act, even if he was given such negative responses, he would be convinced with "it can't be helped since it's a Demon King role play".

Even he thought that it was too clumsy, but he had that sort of disposition. He couldn't say something like "actually, I was just acting as a Demon King, tehepuu" at this point.

Not just Lamnites, the reactions of the people who he called companions, he was so afraid that he couldn't even imagine what it would be like.

—Although my life is important, I would die if I embarrass myself! I might not actually die, but I would die mentally!

Just by thinking about it, an unpleasant sweat went down along his spine, his body trembled, and his vision distorted.

Diablo pointed his 《Staff of Tenma》 towards the sand ship.

"You should move out of the way, Lumachina. If they are to obstruct my path, I only have to annihilate them."

"P, please forgive them! These people are also people of honor that protect the people of the country. Even if they seem to go against you, please do not take away their lives."

Lumachina spread her hands out between both sides.

This small, young girl, stopped the opening of hostilities alone.

—That's incredible.

He was honestly impressed. Despite being afflicted with a curse that would take her life after a few days, she was able to move her body with just the feeling of wanting to protect people.

If he himself were in a situation where he would live or die—Most likely, he wouldn't have the composure to be concerned with the life or death of other people.

Diablo lowered his 《Staff of Tenma》.

"You damned fool. Out of consideration for you, I shall forgive the disrespected shown towards me just this once."

"Thank you very much!"

Lumachina lowered her head very deeply.

After that, she then turned back towards Lamnites.

"Lord Lamnites, do you believe it is possible for the Demon King to save people's lives? I have been saved by Diablo-sama several times. And then, he has told me that after this, he would grant a treasured article meant to cure the Marked Death Disease that has spread in the town. Even if this gentleman is a Demon King, there is no mistake that he is a Demon King of virtue!"

A Demon King of virtue huh.

Most likely, Lamnites wouldn't accept that.

Diablo thought about when the attack command would be given.

Rem also stepped forward next to Lumachina.

".....O Feudal Lord of Zircon Tower, please listen to my story as well. From here on, with Diablo's guidance, in order to obtain the treasure that will cure the Marked Death Disease, we intend to head towards a certain dungeon."

Lamnites spat out with eyes like she were looking at someone suspicious looking.

"What nonsense are you—"

"Therefore! If we do not retrieve the treasured article from the dungeon, wouldn't it be valid to place your suspicions of him being a Demon King on him once again at that time!?"

"That is not permitted. First comes inspecting your suspicion! If you are

innocent, then you can go wherever once you are freed. Though, that is only if you are innocent."

".....Please wait. In fact, one of our group has contracted the Marked Death Disease. We do not have much time."

Lamnites narrowed her eyes.

"This isn't a fib or lie, is it? Where is your proof?"

".....The proof is—"

Rem hesitated to say it. At that moment, Lumachina raised her voice.

"It is right here."

She raised up the hem of her priest outfit.

She exposed as far as the base of her thigh.

Exposing her skin before many people watching, a still young girl would probably oppose doing that.....She was probably that serious in thinking about trying to stop the fighting.

Seeing the nevus that surfaced on her skin, Lamnites breathed a sigh.

"I see.....To think the High Chief Priest would have it."

"I believe that this is also trial given to me by Kami-sama. Or, it might be a oracle in order to bring back the treasured article in order to save the people."

The story steadily became heavier.

—What should I do if it turns out that this dungeon is something different, and the 《White Cow Statue》 isn't there either?

Just thinking about it sent a chill down his spine.

Lamnites nodded.

"I am not an imbecile. I understand what you all have to say. Certainly, it would seem there is a limit to your time. And then, as to whether it is indeed appropriate to punish that fellow who purports himself as the Demon King.....

There is truth in your words in that he should be judged in view of his actions."

Lumachina and Rem brightened their expressions.

Because her way of speaking was difficult, it seemed that Shera didn't understand, and tilted her head.

Horun still had a frightened look.

Diablo didn't remove his vigilance. He thought that she didn't have the personality that would completely accept their proposal.

And then, sure enough—Lamnites said something unexpected.

"Very well, go and bring back that treasured article from the dungeon! With that, I shall acknowledge it as proof of your innocence."

"Thank you very much!"

When Rem said her thanks, Lamnites shook her head sideways.

"Wait. There is however a need of proof that you all shall definitely return."

"Eh? But since we're going to dive into a dungeon....."

Lumachina's question was due to her lack of Adventurer's experience.

Naturally, that was something that needed to be taken into consideration.

Lamnites was astute.

"The possibility of there being a different exit must be taken into consideration, should it not? Leave one of your companions behind. Let us see, if you do not return within seven days, they shall be decapitated. They shall be decapitated if you do not bring back the treasured article either. If you have the resolution to do so, I shall believe in your words."

For an inflexible Feudal Lord, that was an adequate compromise.

—But, in the worst case, there is also the possibility that the treasured article isn't there.

Diablo asked a question in a low voice.

".....Horun.....In which direction is the dungeon?"

".....Eh? The north of town -ssu."

"Yosh, once I make the signal, start running."

"U, ussu!"

Rem and Lumachina made surprised looking faces.

Diablo struck the ground with the 《Staff of Tenma》.

"《Earth Bounce》!!"

This was his first time using it on sand but.....

Just like in the game, the screen—no, the ground shook. An earth tremor occurred, and the view went up and down. It was Earth Attribute Magic.

The sand ships that the soldiers rode also shook up and down.

"U, uwah!? What's going on!?" "It's shaking.....shaking.....Is the ship moving!?" "Who said to move them!?" "The ground is moving!" "Could it be magic!? Wh, what incredible.....!!"

The sand ships slanted.

The soldiers raised screams.

When living in Japan, one would get used to small earthquakes, but it seemed that the inhabitants here were inexperienced.

For an instant, Diablo lost consciousness. He wanted to lie down in the sand just like this—that desire welled up inside of him.

So he was out of MP.

His body became heavy with lethargy.

However, he felt that he wanted to save Lumachina. He couldn't allow himself to be caught by the Feudal Lord in a place like this.

Diablo broke into a run.

"Do not separate from me! The ground will shake due to magic."

There was no effect of 《Earth Bounce》 within about a three meter radius of the caster. When separated more than that, the ground would shake, and it should become difficult to even walk properly.

Obedying his instructions, Rem, Shera, Lumachina, and Horun firmly chased after him.

—With this shaking, it'll probably be impossible to aim at us with their guns.

Only Lamnites who possessed the sole 《Deep Crimson Wings》 had the potential to attack them without any concern for the magic by floating in the air but.....

It seemed that she had injured her right arm. She probably isn't able to display her usual power.

Above all, if she were to float solo, then she was a suitable mark for a Magician.

He would throw at her a magic with an inescapable vast range.

Thinking that, Lamnites glared.

Without flustering, she stared and watched Diablo from on top of the shaking sand ship.

She was calm.

It were as if she anticipated that Diablo would invite disorder with magic and escape from this place.

—What are you thinking? Was it just a stalemate because of your injury? Or could it be.....

She had a position to think about. Arrest him because he's a Demon King, and kill him after he opposes—It might not be that sort of simple way of thinking. Passing through the gaps of the disordered army, Diablo's group escaped from the siege ring.

Part 3

Rem, Shera, and Horun were Adventurers that had accumulated a fair amount of experience. Lumachina had trouble, but with Diablo holding her in his arms and carrying her, they were somehow able to run and separate themselves from the Zircon Tower City army.

They hid themselves in the shadow of a boulder.

"Haa.....haa.....haa.....haa....."

Lumachina started to breath roughly again.

Shera held out a flask. She was well prepared.

"It's only a bit but, drink, some water. Is it hard for you to walk? I wonder if it's because of the Marked Death Disease?"

"N, no.....Since we were running on top of sand, I am just worn-out. It looks like everyone has a lot of stamina. As expected of Adventurers."

"Ah—, it's because I was thinking that wanted to go on a journey, so although I look like this, I've tempered my legs and loins."

Shera said that looking bashful.

Rem nodded.

".....I have also tempered myself. Plus, Pantherians are originally a race that excel in running for long distances."

"Me too. In dungeons, you die if you become unable to walk anymore after all."

Horun was a bit proud.

Diablo didn't temper himself. However, a level 150 body wouldn't feel fatigue with just a bit of running.

It was different from a body that would be short of breath just from going up stairs.

Lumachina narrowed her eyes.

"Everyone, you are all so amazing. I also need to move my body more, don't I."

Shera sat down next to her.

"Why don't we take a bit of a break? They won't find us here so easily, and Diablo will do something about them if they chase after us!"

"Yes."

"Lumachina-chan, do you not go out that much?"

"That's right. It's because in terms of my position, I wasn't really allowed to leave the temple that is in the royal capital's great chapel."

"H~n, so you were the same as me."

"The same as Shera-san.....?"

Rem cut into the conversation.

"She's a bit of an idiot, but Shera is the Princess of the Elves. Though, right now, she's in the middle of running away."

"Oh my!"

Lumachina opened her eyes wide in surprise.

After going *Ehehe* and being bashful—She went *Ha!* and noticed.

"Wait a sec, Rem!? What do you mean, a bit of an idiot!?"

".....That was a slip of the tongue. I should have asserted it without the vagueness of using "a bit". How could I have done such a thing."

"I'm not an idiot!"

They quarrelled like usual. Their verbal fights were something that happened every day.

Diablo dropped his eyes on the flask that Lumachina held in her hands.

Maybe because she noticed his gaze, she called out to him.

"Ah, would you like some water?"

"That is not the case."

Certainly, he had kept on fighting since last night, so his throat was dry.

However, that was no good.

To accept the flask that Lumachina used, and then put his mouth on it.....

—That's an indirect kiss, isn't it!

It was obvious that he would absolutely end up acting strangely.

That wouldn't be Demon King-like.

An indirect kiss is totally embarrassing—Just as Diablo was thinking such a thing, Rem nodded.

".....Diablo, could it be that you are thinking about our water and food from now on?"

She went and said something like that.

He was thinking about something more shallow and embarrassing, but Diablo

noded while looking wise.

"Umu, that is right."

".....Now that we've escaped from the army, there is no way we can approach the town. That being said, facing a dungeon without any food or water is just reckless."

Horun stood up.

"In that case, I want you all to leave it to me -ssu!"

".....What are you going to do? Are you going to steal stuff in the town or something?"

"I am a Seeker, not a Thief -ssu!"

Diablo remembered that Horun had snuck a bite of curry last night, but he didn't make a retort.

Horun continued talking.

"Since my face was seen perfectly by the soldiers, I wouldn't want to go back to town even if it was just me -ssu. If we don't bring back the treasured article, we can't go back to Zircon Tower City anymore -ssu yo."

".....Then, do you think we could get the peddlers at the outskirts to sell us thing?"

"That also isn't a bad idea -ssu, but for now, I would like for you to leave it to me -ssu. I'm going to appeal that I can be useful -ssu yo!"

"We will need food and water by nightfall, and if possible, it would be better if there were a cot to sleep in though?"

"It'll be alright -ssu!"

".....I am a bit anxious, but if you're going to go that far, I guess I'll trust you. In regards to capturing dungeons in this vicinity, Horun, you are the most experienced after all."

"Leave it to me -ssu—!!"

His light-hearted attitude fanned the anxiety, but Diablo didn't deny it.

"How much distance is there until we arrive at that dungeon?"

"Erm.....Since it would take about half a day with a small sand ship, it would take about 2~3 days on foot -ssu ne."

"Fumu."

Diablo's personal dungeon wasn't displayed on the MMORPG Cross Reverie's field map. It was an existence that was only in the settings.

The place that they would head to from here on, although it was a dungeon that he knew best about more than anyone else, it was an unknown location.

Part 4

Evening—

At one of the countless boulders that were scattered in the desert. When the sand under the shade of the boulder was removed a bit, there was a board. It was a door.

When opened, the inside turned into a cave. A wooden staircase continued down it.

"Wawah, is this the dungeon!?"

Shera raised a high-pitched voice.

Rem breathed a sigh.

".....We just had a conversation that said that it would take about 2~3 days to get to the dungeon. Isn't this a sand ship?"

When she asked that, Horun nodded.

"That's right -ssu! It's a shipwreck -ssu ne. I think that it was done in by monsters, but there weren't any people -su yo—"

Maybe they escaped, or maybe they were eaten by those monsters that attacked them.

Everyone went down into the cabin.

The wooden staircase creaked.

Rem stroked the wall. *Para para*.....The surface collapsed and fell. It seemed to be quite old.

".....Food and water is in here?"

"There is -ssu yo, it's my hideout -su. Since I can replenish that stuff without going back to town and then go into the dungeon again, it's super convenient -ssu."

".....If you were to dig this up, wouldn't it be a fortune?"

"Unfortunately, the cabin is the only thing that properly remains, and it seems

that the bow and stern of the ship are gone -su yo."

".....Is that so."

Lumachina surveyed the cabin.

And then she put both of her hands together.

Maybe it was a prayer to Kami-sama for providing this place, or maybe it was a prayer for the sailors that rode on this sand ship.

Shera sat down on one of the chairs.

"It looks like ghosts or something will appear."

"Ugh.....!? I was trying to not think about that kind of stuff, so I want you to stop that -ssu."

"Ahahaha"

She laughed and passed it off.

Rem brushed off the sand that was on an elliptical shaped table.

".....For today, since we also have last night's fatigue, let's rest here. Since we'll be walking a lot starting tomorrow."

"Agree~d!"

Shera raised her hand, and Horun nodded.

Lumachina tightly clenched her fists.

"I, I will do my best."

It seemed that she was suffering since she wasn't used to venturing on foot.

Even on the journey from Faltra City to Zircon Tower City, a majority of it was either on a carriage or a sand ship.

Rem looked over here.

".....Is that alright, Diablo?"

"Ah? Umu."

Maybe she was seeking an opinion from him as well. That was probably it.

Only a small time has passed since he started to act together with Rem and Shera but.....he still wasn't used to group action.

If he loses focus, at times where everyone has decided the plans, he unintentionally ends up thinking "it doesn't concern me". A habit of many years doesn't change easily.

Horun brought out food and water from deep inside the cabin.

"We'll grill 'em outside -ssu!"

Shera jumped up.

"Alright~!! There are raisins~!!"

"There's also jerky and various other things -ssu. There's still time until night comes, and since we have the chance, we'll cook outside -ssu."

".....That's true."

Rem also approved, so things turned out like that.

It was cooking that used preserved foods, but they had continued to fight since last night, and today they walked for a long time.

It felt like a warm meal would be very delicious.



Part 5

Feudal Lord Lamnites returned to Zircon Tower.

Due to the sudden earthquake, a portion of the sand ships were damaged, and several of the soldiers were also injured. Though it was only at the level of them falling from the ship or falling over on the deck due to being flustered.

The soldiers' proficiency wasn't low.

However, when it came to opponents that possessed superhuman strength, it was difficult to make the best use of military strength.

Having a light seat in a large chair, Lamnites breathed a sigh.

With her current fighting power, she couldn't win against Diablo.

And then, on the next full moon, that Demonic Being Vanaknes would come again. Even with preparing for the fight, could she win?

—This is tough.

More fighting power was needed.

There was someone approaching at a quick pace. They came before Lamnites and made a salute with good form. It was Henrick.

"Lamnites-sama, we were able to make a conjecture on where the escaped Adventurers are headed."

"Hou?"

"Among their company, there was a Zircon Tower City Adventurer called Horun. On the Guild registration, he has been listed as a dungeon guide for about a year. It was said that recently, he has been doing nothing but going to a certain dungeon that was newly discovered."

In this former Demon King territory, there were Demonic Beast nests, former Demonic Being bases, and several dungeons. Since they were often discovered, she wasn't curious just because he said that it was new, but she was interested in how he said that he was doing nothing but exploring that place.

"Is there something in that new dungeon?"

"According to the stories of the Adventurers, some excessively powerful monsters appear, but it seems that arms and tools endowed with outrageous magic have been discovered."

"Hou.....?"

"Things like a sword that emits flames, and a shield that intercepts the cold, they say that there are arms that have never been seen before."

Lamnites thought about it.

—If we had those, wouldn't we be able to augment our army?

"Fufu, isn't that interesting. Henrick, chase after the fleeing Diablo and his group. At the same time, investigate that dungeon, and if there any of those special arms, retrieve them."

"Understood!"

The young knight saluted once again.

At that time, a soldier announced a new visitor.

Lamnites told him to let them in.

Before long, a single man entered the room with a stride that had an air of composure.

He had a tall stature and a body type that had bulging muscles, and a large long sword hung from his waist.

He wore blue armor that contained the Church's crest—He was a Holy Knight. He made a respectful bow.

"I am known as the Holy Knight Geibalt. Feudal Lord Lamnites-sama, your fame has even reached the royal capital, and to lay my eyes on you like this is—"

"Enough of the flattery, I am tired of hearing it. I have no time to listen to the demands of the Church. Go back—That is the only thing I have to say to the dog that came from the royal capital."

"N, no, I have not come to communicate the Church's demands.....Hearing that the High Chief Priest had come to this town, I have come to escort her. Ohoho." Geibalt's true objective was different.

He was contracted to "assassinate Lumachina". However, before he could accomplish his objective, he was smashed by Diablo.

If he were to return to the royal capital just like this, as atonement for his failure, and to seal his mouth—He would be killed. As someone that knew their secret on top of being useless, there was no way his client would let him live.

He had to carry out his job with certainty and prove his worth.

Geibalt had chased after Lumachina's whereabouts this far, but the estate that the Head of the Holy Knights Baduta, who should have been lodging here, used was partially destroyed. His whereabouts had become unknown.

—At this rate, won't I be the one that'll be killed! Like hell I'll let her escape, that little bitch!!

Suppressing and putting out the dark flame of his inner thoughts, Geibalt made an insincere smile.

"The safety of the High Chief Priest who announces the oracles from Kami-sama, Lumachina-sama, is of the utmost priority to the Church. Lamnites-sama, with your power as the Feudal Lord of this Zircon Tower City, could I please ask that you search for her whereabouts?"

Lamnites glared at him.

Normally, if a debt from the Church was going to be made, any Feudal Lord would gladly cooperate. The Church owned that much authority.

However, she was different.

Lamnites harbored unpleasant feelings towards the idea of something other than her possessing authority in her territory.

This place was former Demon King territory, and unless the power of the people is concentrated, they would be adjoined with insurmountable danger.

Something that has a possibility of opposing the Feudal Lord's opinion, she couldn't allow that to exist.

"Hmph.....A Holy Knight huh."

Lamnites had a thought.

—It'd be fine to send him away but.....It's said that the Holy Knights are nothing but people that are around level 100 and possess superhuman power.

Right now, she wanted as many people as possible as fighting power.

That being said, if she were to tell the Holy Knight "since Demonic Beings are coming, lend us your strength", she couldn't expect his cooperation.

It seems that his objective is the protection of the High Chief Priest Lumachina.

"Fumu.....If it's about her whereabouts, we already have a grasp on it."

"What was that!?"

"The High Chief Priest is together with a strange Magician, and seems to be headed towards a certain dungeon."

"A Magician.....It's a Demon called Diablo, isn't it -desu wa ne?"

Geibalt used an unmanly way of speaking, but having a disposition that didn't mind the small details, Lamnites let it pass by.

"So as expected, you do know of him."

"That person, he has deceived the pure High Chief Priest, and taken her away!"

Geibalt made it turn out like that.

To Lamnites, she didn't care about the Church's circumstances.

"It seems that there are arms that have never been seen before at the dungeon that they were headed for. I have an interest in those. If you cooperate in the retrieval of those, I shall have my subordinates guide you to the High Chief Priest's location."

"Ooh! Of course I will cooperate!"

Geibalt put his hands together with a look of deep emotion. In his mind, he was thinking "as long as I find Lumachina, who cares about the rest" though.

To Lamnites, she didn't think that the Holy Knight would completely cooperate. However, she was uneasy with the subordinates being dispatched being only Henrick and several other subordinates. It was enough if he just helped them on the way.

"I do not mind if you prioritize the High Chief Priest's protection, but cooperate with my subordinates until then. If you promise that, I shall grant you the result you desire."

"Thank you very much! I swear in the name of God!"

Geibalt drew the holy symbol in front of his chest.

Lamnites nodded.

Since the discussion had concluded, Henrick extended out his right hand.

"It is reassuring to have secured the assistance of the famed Holy Knight Geibalt-dono. It is a pleasure to be working with you."

"Ara, a surprisingly good man."

"Eh?"

"No no, same here, it is a pleasure to be working with you."

Geibalt tightly gripped Henrick's held out right hand with both of his hands.

Part 6

"《Explosion》!!"

Three days later—

Within the desert, that building existed as if it were added after the fact. On the triangular structure that looked like a pyramid, a stone door was attached.

What protected the door was a lion statue.

Diablo's magic made it burst.

An explosive flame spread out.

The moving stone statue that was encamped in front of the building was blown away, and scattered about on top of the sand.

Since it possessed the wings of an eagle, and its tail was a snake, it was a so-called chimera. It used Petrification Breath and lightning magic—That was the configuration, but it wasn't given a chance to counterattack.

The moving stone statue became unable to move.

Horun clapped his hands.

"Uhyoh~!! That's incredible -ssu, Danna!"

"Naturally. It isn't even a warm-up."

"Last time, I came here with the town's strongest Warriors, and defeated it after quite a bit of hardship -ssu yo—."

"When you say Zircon Tower City's best, around what level were they?"

"I think they were about level 80 -ssu."

"Fumu....."

That was by no means a low level.

Possibly, could their weapons have been bad. The circulated arms in this other world were of low quality when compared to the game.

Diablo's dungeon adjusted the monsters' strength to match the game's Players. He didn't understand the theory behind it but—Most likely, the dungeon that Diablo created in his personal space.

By gathering the special items, the 《Treasure Map Fragments》, in the game, the other Players would obtain the right to challenge it.

(Since Diablo's group currently didn't possess the 《Treasure Map Fragments》, it seems that setting was restricted to the game.)

The result of capturing a Player owned dungeon was being a means of being able to fight against the producer—in this case, against Diablo.

Incidentally, while the special item was needed, Players that captured the dungeon once would be able to apply for a rematch at any time.

In any case, in the MMORPG Cross Reverie, scenarios where defeating large-scale monsters by cooperating with a great number of people was the standard. There were personal battle events as well, but it wasn't a game that made that the main part of it.

Normally, it was rare for challengers to appear but.....

Since Diablo did a Demon King role play, he became a famous person, and he was often challenged to battles in the game.

—To think that I would have to capture this dungeon myself.

In the game, he was able to freely go in and out of his personal space, and he was even able to go into the deepest area in an instant.

However, in this other world, even if Diablo visited it, nothing happened. No, if something like a status terminal screen or dialogue saying “Which floor will you go to?” were to suddenly appear, that would be more surprising though.

Diablo became uneasy.

—Is this really my dungeon? Well, I guess there's no other choice but to try going inside.

The scorched lion statue unsteadily returned to its original spot.

Its once splendid mane was broken.

If it were the game, the stone statue would wait for the next challenger in no time at all, but in this world, it understandably had exhaustion.

Would it eventually be completely destroyed. Or was there some sort of means of recovery for it.

The stone statue was silent.

Shera headed towards the gate doors.

"So this place is that dungeon, right!? We've finally arrived~."

"I'm sorry, all because my legs were slow, it took us four days....."

"Ahaha! It isn't Lumachina-chan's fault. It's fine, it's fine. It'll all work out even if we take a bit more time!"

Shera baselessly encouraged Lumachina.

A pragmatic view was needed, but Diablo recognized there was a meaning to words like that. At the very least, the mood of the girls didn't become worse. However, the nevi that surfaced onto Lumachina's skin increased to five.....only four more to go.

While heading to the gate doors of the dungeon, Rem talked to Horun.

".....That was unexpected."

"Hoe, what was -ssu ka?"

"With all due respect.....In these past few days, I was thinking that your abilities were around level 20."

"Eh!? Ah, well, as a Warrior.....That's the way it is. I'm, a Seeker after all -ssu!"

".....Putting it bluntly, I thought you would be "useless at anything other than being a guide". I am terribly sorry."

"Ugh!? Ha, haha.....O, oh please~, I, I'm super useful, you know?"

"Yes. The fact that you grouped up in a party with level 80 Warriors, it means that they recognized that you have that much ability. I expect great things from you. If there is anything you need, please say it without any hesitation."

"Ah, uh.....Th, thank you -ssu."

Horun showed a forced smile.

Diablo had a memory of that sort of expression.

—That's the face of someone that is expected of doing something even though they don't have the confidence to do it, but can't say that they can't do it.

Most likely, Horun's abilities probably really are around level 20.

Diablo remembered something.

In town, Horun had a dispute over the dungeon capture reward. He was cursed at as being "useless" by the Pantherian Warrior.

The Pantherian at that time might have been the level 80 town's best Warrior.

Diablo thought about such a thing while walking behind everyone.

Shera pushed the stone gate doors.

"Eiyah—!!"

While making a creaking sound, the heavy looking stone doors opened up.

Rem shrugged her shoulders.

".....Have you thought about the possibility of traps?"

"Hie!?"

".....That was a joke. Since Horun who has already come here once is here, he would have said if there was a trap."

"J, jeez, don't scare me like that!"

".....Please be cautious from now on. I don't want to be dragged into something after all."

"Uu~"

Shera groaned.

Lumachina made a wry smile.

"Although she says it like that, Rem-san really does worry about you, Shera-san, doesn't she."

"Eh? Is that true?"

"Fufu, yes it is."

"I see—"

Going *Ehehe*, Shera expressed a smile.

Rem made a displeased face and passed by beside them.

".....Lumachina, please don't say such strange things. I really just don't want to get dragged into the stupid Elf's mistakes. Horun, could I ask you to do the guiding?"

"Got it -ssu!"

Leaving behind the four that were conversing, Diablo went on inside.

He descended the stone staircase.

It was a place where the ceiling was dimly lit, and it wasn't dark enough that one couldn't see.

Rem and the others rushed to follow him.

"P, please wait up, Diablo.....Why did you go on ahead?"

"Mu? It's not like there will be any enemies that will be a particular problem though?"

".....That is.....I fully understand that you are strong. But, aren't dungeons places where one should proceed carefully?"

In the end, he didn't explain that "this dungeon was created by him" to Rem and the others. It was because he didn't know how he should tell them.

He memorized the arrangement of the monsters and traps—There was no way he could say something like that.

If that were the case, why was there a need to ask Horun about its location? Why didn't he have any confidence in its existence up until now? If he were asked those questions, he would be at a loss on how to answer.

He couldn't say "it was because I made the choices from a list on the menu screen in the game".

Since he had no other choice, he overcame it like a Demon King.

"Do not be mistaken, I am not a companion to all of you. I am simply allowing

you all to follow along after me. You should just keep quiet and walk behind me!"

—Since I know everything about this dungeon, it'll be safe if you just follow behind me, is what I wanted to say but.....was that transmitted? It'd be nice if it was.

Diablo had low communication skills.

Rem lowered her panther ears.

".....Yes, I'm sorry."

Shera and Lumachina also made uneasy faces. Horun was completely frightened.

So he failed.

He made a complicated atmosphere with just a few words.

—This is why doing a party play is an impossible game for me! Charging at the last boss solo is a whole lot better! is what Diablo shouted in his mind.

Even while he was thinking about various things in his mind, he silently walked. Rem and the others followed after him.

Over the past few days, with Shera enlivening things and with Lumachina behaving stout-heartedly, the atmosphere that was somehow preserved a brightness to it, quickly turned heavy due to Diablo's few words.

However, their lineup wasn't bad.

At the lead was the sturdy Diablo that was familiar with the dungeon. Next was the Summoner Rem. After her was (although the person herself insists that she's a Summoner) the high leveled Archer Shera. And then, the Healer Lumachina. And lastly was the Seeker Horun who excelled at sensing things. Maybe because the atmosphere had become heavy, or maybe because they had entered the dungeon, the conversations disappeared.

There wasn't any sounds of wind or vegetation.

Come to think of it, there wasn't any BGM in this world—is what Diablo thought.

The music of the MMORPG Cross Reverie had fair degree of perfection, and its ratings from the Players was high.

It was enough that in the real world, music events would be opened, and there would be musical performances by the orchestra, and live performances by voice actors.

Of course, he had never gone. There was no way a hikikomori gamer would go to that sort of riajuu event.

He had seen a relay broadcasted video but.....

There were also Players that seemed to be participating as a couple in there. For the Players that had written things like [I went to the live event with my girlfriend!] in their game profile field, he ended up wanting to cast maximum magic on them even if it was in the middle of town.

—If you're happy in real life, then become unhappy in the game.

That pessimistic and pitch dark sentiment that no one would praise him for had stimulated Diablo.

Rem and Shera had a secret talk in whispers.

"Hey, hey, Diablo is really scary, you know?"

".....I wonder what could have happened? He's been strange ever since we entered the dungeon."

"Do you think, we did something wrong?"

".....I don't know."

There was an awkwardness.

I want to make a follow-up somehow—is what Diablo thought, but he couldn't come up with words of good sense that would make the atmosphere better.

—Argh, I hate the guys that can walk while having fun with girls!

Chapter 2: Trying Out Capturing the Dungeon

Part 1

With the elevator, they quickly arrived at the 13th underground floor.

That sort of cheat didn't exist in this other world.

In regards to travelling, it was austere no matter where they went, and was a pallid, unkind design like old Western video games.

—Really, there is reality even in another world.

What was written on the first underground floor's inner door was [This is not a Flag Battle, but an Elimination Battle].

It was in Japanese in the game, but it seemed that it was written in this world's language. With Diablo being unable to read it, Rem read it out loud.

Diablo explained.

"When all of the monsters on this floor are defeated, a staircase will appear in the back. Though I say monsters, they are all low leveled."

Horun nodded several times.

"But, there are also some hidden monsters, so it was pretty difficult -ssu."

Rem asked a question.

".....Um.....As I thought, Diablo, you knew about it, didn't you?"

"Mu?"

".....About this dungeon.....But, why are you so well-informed about it? Even in regards to the former Demon King territory, it seemed that you knew many things about it. However, being from another world, Diablo, this should have been your first time visiting this land. Even with the dungeon's location, without Horun's guidance, it seemed as if you didn't know where it was."

It couldn't be helped if she thought it was strange. To know about the mechanisms inside even though he didn't know the dungeon's location.....

He pondered over what would be a clever excuse.

But if he could come up with something like that, his hardships with communication would.....(rest omitted)

"It is because I am a Demon King."

".....Is that so."

Rem looked like she wasn't fully satisfied. That was reasonable.

Diablo turned his gaze towards Lumachina's direction. She didn't have time.

"Right now, it would be best to hurry on ahead."

"Yes....."

Rem is rational and wise. She immediately withdrew.

They stood at the maze's entrance.

Several thin stone walls formed a complex maze.

On the first underground floor, only the monsters' levels were low, but it had become a searching around quest to find out where in the complex maze the monsters were.

Since the location of the monsters were random, even Diablo didn't know where they were.

Some would be camouflaged into the ground and walls, while there were some that stuck onto the ceiling and fell on top of Players that were passing by.

As the producer, he had a feeling of wanting to be upfront with it and enjoy it but.....

—Unfortunately, we don't have the time right now.

Diablo turned towards the darkness, and prepared his 《Staff of Tenma》.

Lumachina's legs were slow, and they needed a few more days than they expected to reach the dungeon, but thanks to that, his MP had recovered. Right now, it was at about 30%.

It wouldn't be a problem even if he used a somewhat largish magic.

"《Virus Cloud》!!"

A curtain of wind sprung forth in front of his eyes. On the other side of it, dark clouds spread out. Black air spread out to the back of maze.

The presence of the monsters that wandered about in the dungeon vanished.

Rem asked a question with a frightened sounding voice.

".....Diablo, that is?"

"It is Poison Magic."

It was level 110 Wind and Darkness Attribute Magic. It would annihilate the low level monsters in an enclosed space like the dungeon. It would have no effect

on monsters that did not breath though.

"P, poison, is it."

"It is because there is no need to fight fair and square against the hiding and lurking monsters."

".....That is.....But, will we be alright going through the path?"

"Be at ease, the effective time is short."

In the game, it was 60 seconds, but in this world, there were many cases where the scale of distance and time were different. In the end, the dark cloud of poison lasted for about five minutes.

At the back of the dungeon, a *gakon* sound was made.

"So the staircase has appeared."

It seems that the monsters were annihilated.

—As the producer, I don't really like cheating like this though.

They continued onto the next floor.

Part 2

The stone staircase that looked like it was carved out of bedrock continued down in a spiral-shape.

This part was a part omitted in the game.

Rem's eyes went round.

".....This is magnificent.....I have never seen a structure this splendid."

"I know right—"

Shera was also impressed, and stroked the wall.

Horun nodded once again.

"I was also super surprised when I first saw it -ssu!"

"Even the grand chapel in the royal capital isn't this well made. It might be possible that it isn't a building made by the people of the Races."

Rem and the others nodded at Lumachina's words.

".....That is possible. It might have been created with powerful magic just like Zircon Tower."

The Zircon Tower that was the symbol of Zircon Tower City was constructed with precious stone that had a sense of translucence. It couldn't be cut with common methods, and it was said that the people of the Races didn't even know how to create it.

It was judged as being created by the Demonic Beings.

Diablo's group finally arrived at the second underground floor.

[Transforming Maze]

"This place is a maze that changes with the passage of time. Monsters also wander about."

While talking and worrying about where to go, the wall at the back would open up and monsters would appear—That sort of pleasant event could also happen.

".....So the maze changes? It seems like memorizing it will be difficult."

Rem pondered over it.

Shera raised an uneasy voice.

"If we get separated, it might be hard to return to the entrance."

".....We might not even be able to join together again. You could be eaten by monsters, die from starvation, or get caught in a trap."

"Hii!?"

".....It will be alright, Shera. You will be discovered by someone eventually. You might have turned into a skeleton corpse by then though."

"That isn't alright at all, you know!?"

Shera coiled herself around Diablo's arm. Her large bulges pressed up against him.

"I don't want to be left behind, Diablo!?"

Being hit with a surprise attack, he unintentionally winced.

Demon King-like words that would soothe a frightened young girl in front of a dungeon—He couldn't come up with any in an instant.

At any rate, with his arm being held tightly, it would be hard to fight when monsters appeared.

"Separate from me."

"Uu....."

She made a face that looked like she was about to cry.

—What should I do!?

At that time, Lumachina touched Shera's shoulder.

"It is alright. Let us believe in Diablo-sama. With you like that, he will be troubled when danger approaches, you know?"

"Th, that's true.....Yeah.....I'm sorry, Diablo."

"Hmph."

Although he felt a bit disappointed when she separated from him and the soft, warm feeling left as well, but Diablo was relieved in his mind.

If those were pressed up against him, he would be nervous, and he wouldn't be able to capture the dungeon.

Horun spread out a parchment.

"This is a map of when we came here last time -ssu. I think that it has already changed though -ssu."

".....Now that you mention it, Horun, you said that you've gone as far as the third floor, didn't you?"

"That's right -ssu. On the third underground floor, there is a room that monsters come out from in swarms, and was really troublesome -ssu."

"About how long is the length of the maze?"

"It took us about half a day -ssu."

—That long?

Diablo found that to be surprising.

In the game, they should have come out in about 5~10 minutes but.....

Come to think of it, even going to Faltra City from the 《Starfall Tower》 should have taken 5~10 minutes in the game, but in this other world, it took about six hours.

It might be possible that it had become a far more vast and complex maze than Diablo thought it would be.

If they were to diligently capture it, there was a possibility that they would take more than half a day to do it.

What should they do?

Diablo looked at one of the walls. It was made from stone. Its thickness was about two bricks thick. Being able to move, they weren't bulky.

—Come to think of it, although terrain can't be changed with magic in the game, it's possible in this other world, isn't it. I guess I should try it out.

"《Flare Burst》!!"

A thunderous roar resounded.

Explosions that had their focus narrowed down happened consecutively and destroyed the target.

Several walls were broken, and holes that lead to the back appeared one after another.

They were holes that they could pass through.

If even the location of the staircase to the next floor had changed, he would have ended up opening holes in the wrong direction.....but going by what they had experienced up until now, although the distance was different, the direction was surely the same.

"Yosh."

When he turned around—

Rem and the others were flabbergasted with their mouths wide open.

Shera's eyes were sparkling.

"That's amazing! It'll be easy if we go forward just like this!"

"This much is only natural, for I am a Demon King after all."

He said that in a tone that wasn't particularly proud, but even he was surprised in his mind.

To think that it would go this well!

Although the game's magic had a visual effect of gouging out the ground, in actuality, it wouldn't change it. It could happen since this was another world.

"As expected of you, Diablo-sama."

Lumachina looked at the broken stone walls and was strongly impressed.

As usual, Horun was surprised and frightened. For an Adventurer, he was a timid fellow.

An earth tremor occurred, and several stone walls started moving.

"Do not stray too far from me. It is not my fault if you lose sight of me."

When Diablo called out to them, Lumachina and Horun became flustered and went through the holes.

Part 3

On the third underground floor, [F43] was written.

It was written in this world's letters, but when it was this short, Diablo could understand it.

—So it is written like this in this place.

It might be good if he learned the Lifelia Kingdom's language eventually.

The third floor's mechanism was a homage to a certain retro game but.....since the retro game that was the source material wasn't in this other world, it turned out to be a floor with no hints.

It was made so that when Slimes of differing color were defeated in order, the staircase going down would appear.

Their stationing and movements were random.

However, the Slimes' movements were slow, and since it wasn't a very spacious maze, they were able to clear it quickly.

The fourth underground floor—

[Do you want to go to the next floor—!?]

The moment they went through the door, they were engulfed in hot air.

Rem's expression distorted.

".....Wh, what is this?"

"Hyah!? Rem, isn't that!?"

Looking down from the cliff that acted as their foothold, Rem raised a scream.

What was flaming and burning was, lava.

That heat had changed this floor's air into a scorching heat.

Rem was suspicious.

".....There shouldn't be, any volcanoes in this area. And we haven't gone deep enough to see something like that. Isn't this just an illusion created through magic?"

"This hot feeling.....is an illusion?"

Maybe because she was weak to heat, Lumachina dripped sweat and asked that.

Rem also wiped the sweat from her own forehead.

".....Certainly, this does not appear to be an illusion. But I believe there is no mistake that it is lava created through magic."

"In any case, let's continue on ahead -ssu. If we stay here the whole time, it feels like we'll dry up -ssu!"

Horun's words were reasonable.

When they continued on ahead, the cliff that was their foothold was interrupted before long. Below was lava. A wire rope stretched out to the opposite side.

There was a gondola hooked onto that wire rope.

".....Are we supposed to go to the other side with this?"

"So hot!?"

Having touched the gondola that was made from iron, Shera made an uproar. Her fingertip turned red. It seemed that she was scalded.

Lumachina held one hand out.

"Ara ara, please show some modest mercy to the great and honorable God's follower that lives on this blessed land.....《Cure Light》."

Hou Her hand shined.

Shera's scald was cured in an instant. Going *waa—*, she let out a smile.

"Thank you, Lumachina-chan!"

"If you are going to give thanks, send them to Kami-sama."

"Un! Thank you, Kami-sama!"

Rem breathed a sigh.

".....Even though you knew that things were heated up by the lava, why would you touch an iron gondola, you stupid Elf. I'm sure that even Kami-sama is bothered by you."

"I mean, I was wondering about how to move it!"

"At the very least, wear some leather gloves."

"Ah, I see."

As for Rem, she had iron tekkou equipped.

She was a Summoner, but she could also manage close combat using her fists like a Fist Fighter. She possessed the tekkou as her weapon.

Lumachina asked a question.

"Rem-san, isn't it hot?"

".....That is, well, it is hot, isn't it."

"I feel like I'm dying -ssu."

The one that was the most exhausted was Horun.

To think that the Warrior-type man would be exhausted before the Healer woman, how pathetic! So not only was his outward appearance that of a child, even the inside was like that.

That being said, this heat was unexpected for Diablo as well.

Both the gondola and the lava were arranged by him, but in the game, there was only a graphic that made it look hot. In actuality, it felt as if they had turned into ingredients that were being cooked or something.

—If we don't hurry up and clear this floor, we'll be annihilated from dehydration.

Everyone got on board the gondola.

After pushing the lever forward, it started to slowly advance forward.

It rumbled and shook.

"It's shaking! It's shaking!"

When Shera made an uproar, Rem glared at her.

".....Keep silent. What will you do if there are monsters? Do you intend on calling them out?"

"Uguh."

Diablo shrugged his shoulders.

"Be at ease. Monsters have not been deployed in this fourth underground floor. However, you are not only going to be shaken around in the gondola. In fact, you could say that the true terror of this dungeon is going to start from hereon out."

".....Wh, what was that?"

The gondola came to a halt.

Horun raised an agitated voice.

"FuwaAah, it stopped -ssu! We're done for -ssu! It's so hot that we're gonna die -ssu!"

"Shut it. If you find it hot, then take off that pointless equipment. Something like leather armor that hasn't been endowed with magic, it is nothing but dead weight against the monsters we will be facing against beyond here."

"Uu....."

"More importantly, concentrate on the incoming questions. They will come to you as well."

"Eh?"

With a *kan kan kan kan!*, a chime resounded.

[Do you want to go on ahead—!? O~~~~~!!]

That voice could be heard from nowhere in particular.

Diablo wiped the sweat from his forehead.

To think that he himself, moreover in a party, would participate in this.....it was the worst.

[From here on, the questions of a quiz will be asked! If you get it correct, the gondola will advance! If you get it incorrect, the wire rope will slacken! Heaven, or hell! The Lava Crossing Ultra Super Miracle Quiz!]

—When I made this, a quiz show was on TV. Moreover, since I had sleepless nights for about three days, I had a strange high tension going on.

Experiencing this objectively like this.....

How embarrassing.

It was a dark history.

If it was possible, he would first construct this floor over again.

The reasons why he couldn't say that he himself had created this dungeon increased by one more.

[All party members will answer in the quiz in turns!]

Diablo gritted his teeth.

He himself made the setting for the quiz. No matter what maniac subject was brought up, he would be able answer all of the questions correctly.

However, there was a rule that all members of the party had to answer. If there was someone that was ignorant, they would end up dragging everyone down.

It was a friendship breaking type of rule.

Winners and losers would come out in the party, and this rule that made the losers become a bother to the others would produce criticism from their companions.

It was something like doing a large jump rope with the entire class. When even one person missed the timing for the jump, it would be treated as if everyone failed.

Revealing the party's excess baggage—It was that sort of devilish rule.

—Well, if they are members that got along well and were able to consult each other on online chats or in real life, this wouldn't be much of a problem though. This floor at least.....

The problem was whether or not Rem and the others could clear the cult-like quiz related to Cross Reverie. This was another world, and there were no online

chats, telephones, or people inside of them.

[Question! Is the thing that is not effective on Cyclops Crocodiles, magic? Or swords?]

Rem raised her hand.

".....It is magic."

To think that she would answer herself without any timidity in spite of the quiz having started quite abruptly. She had a comprehensive faculty and assertiveness that wasn't common.

There was a momentary pause.

[The correct answer is.....Magic has no effect—!! Splendid!]

The gondola shook, and advanced several meters.

Rem nodded.

".....Like this, it looks like we'll be able to arrive on the other side if we answer correctly five times."

"Umu"

"An easy victory -ssu ne! I will answer the next one -ssu!"

Horun rolled up his sleeves.

[Question! Is the habitat that the Madara Snake lives in, in water? In the trees? Or in a hole?]

"Erm.....In, in a hole -ssu!"

[Bubu—!! The correct answer is, in water—!!]

"Wah—!?"

Horun held his head in his arms. Rem and Shera also screamed.

Diablo breathed a sigh.

Even without having to say it, criticism from the party would gather. This was the fearsomeness of the friendship breaking rule.

[The gondola, goes down!!]

The stretched out wire rope loosened, and with a *gaku*, the gondola's position lowered.

"Kyah!?"

Diablo supported Lumachina who had her balance broken.

"You had best be careful."

"Th, thank you very much."

In the event that the others got scalded, they could be cured by Lumachina's miracles, but miracles couldn't be used on her herself. It could be cured if there were HP Recovery Potions but.....

When he had a substantial amount of HP shaved off in the fight against the Head of the Holy Knights, he used up all of the ones he had on hand.

Fuwah The heat increased.

It must have been because they got closer to the lava.

Rem took off her tekkou. And then, she took off the belt that she stored her Summoned Beast crystals in, and turned it into hand luggage.

".....Fuu"

"It's so hot!"

Shera took off her shoulder cape. On top of that, she grabbed the hem of her skirt, and flapped and fanned it. That released some heat.

Even Lumachina took off the mantle that was put on her.

"It certainly is hot, isn't it.....It is dizzying."

"UUu—"

While only Horun was dripping sweat, he didn't take off any clothes. Was it a manly show of endurance?

Even Diablo wanted to take off his mantle but.....

Due to his habit, since it "wasn't Demon King-like", he stubbornly stuck through it.

Shera raised one hand.

"Then, I'll answer the next one."

[Question! In the Fortress City Faltra, how many gates are there? Four? Eight? More than that?]

"Ah....."

Rem raised her voice. Diablo could understand the feeling but.....

[Whoa there, in the event that there is an act that seems like giving a hint, it will be unconditionally counted as incorrect!]

In a rush, Rem shut her mouth.

Diablo stared at Shera.

—Notice! Notice! Notice!

Shera nodded.

Her eyes looked like they were saying “It’s alright”.

"Fufufu, there are two walls in Faltra City, and since each one has four gates, it’s eight!"

[The correct answer is.....”More than that”—!! There are a lot of “gates”! “Castle gates” wasn’t said in the question!]

"Eh~~~~!? No way, that’s sneaky!"

It was a stereotypical trick question. The guy that created this quiz has a terrible personality.

—Well, it’s me though.

The gondola fell once more.

It drew even closer to the lava.

"So ho~t!"

Finally, Shera started to take off her clothes.

Rem opened her eyes wide.

"Wha, what are you planning to do!?"

"I mean, when it’s this hot, I get dazed, and it gets impossible to do riddles—."

".....Certainly, that might be true. This is for the sake of capturing the dungeon."

Consenting to that strange reasoning, amazingly, even Rem started to strip.

Lumachina’s face went red.

"H, how shameless."

".....If you’re an Adventurer, it’s life over shame. The capturing. It’s the same as bathing in cold water. Thinking that it’s shameless is more shameless."

When she was seriously remonstrated by Rem, Lumachina also consented, going “so that’s how it is”.

She also started taking off her hot-looking clothes.

Horun, who was still dressed in his lightweight armor,—went *unyu*, raising a strange voice, and collapsed to the middle of the gondola. It seems that he went down from the heat.

Lumachina, who was now dressed in her underwear, tightly clenched her fists.

"Is my turn next?"

[Question! Which among these is the biggest monster? The Sand Whale, the

Green Behemoth, the Legend Dragon!]

Diablo was flustered.

Of all things, she was hit with a question aimed towards the considerably high leveled people.

If it were game's Players, they might have participated battles that were group battle events but.....

Most likely, Lumachina has probably never even seen any of them. She should have seen only the Sand Whale in Zircon Tower City though.

She answered.

"According to the books in the royal capital library, it is the Legend Dragon."

[The correct answer is.....The Legend Dragon! You got the right answer—!!]

"Yooray—!! Lumachina-chan, that was great!"

Shera hugged her.

After that, the two of them went *hot~* and made strained laughs.

As expected of the High Chief Priest. She had extensive knowledge. It seemed that her power of miracles wasn't the only thing strong about her.

The gondola moved forward.

Beads of sweat surfaced on the girls' skin. The drops went along the top of their smooth skin and fell.

Going *Haa.....Haa.....*, they panted.

They had flushed faces, and moist eyes.

While gazing at them, Diablo felt like he was starting to have a strange feeling.

Even though it should have only been hot, he had become somewhat embarrassed.

—Has even my head suffered damage due to the heat?

He felt like he was about to involuntarily extend his hand out.

No, no, that was ridiculous.

The girls were party members, they were in the middle of capturing the dungeon right now, and they were stripping because it was hot due to the lava's heat.

Thinking that it was shameless was more shameless.

Shera let out a sigh.

"Nnu.....Diablo.....Next, is your turn, you know?"

Rem wiped the sweat on her chest.

".....Please get it right.....If it becomes, any hotter than this, then it feels like we will have to take off even our underwear."

"That is true. My underwear is already soaking wet."

Even though Lumachina was blushing, she pinched her wet underwear.

—If I get it wrong, they'll be nude!?

Diablo's heart pounded. A large bead of sweat fell from his forehead.

[Question! Cross Reverie's start is in, January? April? September?]

A meta type question had come.

Rem and the others didn't even understand the meaning of the question and tilted their heads.

Naturally, Diablo knew the answer.

—Nude.

Going *no no no*, he shook his head side-to-side.

Don't look down on me! I am a Demon King. The Demon King Diablo!

MMORPGs are not just a game! I will not deny my own way of life!

"It is September. The pre-opening was planned to be in April but it was postponed to September, and the true opening was in January of the following year."

[That is correct—!!]

Once all of the members had a turn, they had more leeway. The remaining questions were answered by Diablo and Rem, and they arrived at the opposite cliff.

When they passed through the door leading to the lower floor, the heat of the lava disappeared and felt as if it were all a lie.

Interlude

The soldier that went to scout out the other side of the door quickly came back.

He had subdued this voice but he made a report while being somewhat excited.

".....I have a discovery!"

Going *umu*, the knight Henrick nodded.

This place was right before the entrance door of the fourth underground floor—It was the place where the staircase was at.

The soldier wiped his forehead.

"It was a dreadful heat. Below the scaffolding, it seemed that there was lava.....I believe that it is most likely something done through magic."

"This place is nothing but surprises."

Henrick folded his arms and groaned.

"Yes. Both the monsters that were annihilated through poison of the first underground floor, and the destroyed stone walls of the second floor.....that isn't common."

"Though, it's thanks to that that the arms collection that Lamnites-sama requested is going favorably."

"True."

However, as a result of that, a majority of the 100 subordinates that were taken along were focused on searching the dungeon.

There was only about 20 members that prioritized pursuing Diablo and had come to the fourth underground floor.

The Holy Knight Geibalt was among them.

"And so? What might be the mechanism on this floor?"

The soldier saluted.

"Ha! It is unknown whose voice it was but.....It seems to be the telling of riddles."

"I don't really get what you mean -wa nee?"

"It seems that by boarding a gondola with a capacity of around six people,

answering riddles in turns, and getting several of them correct, it is possible to cross to the other side. It seems that there is a mechanism where the gondola will get closer to the lava if answered incorrectly."

"Hoho～n, that sure is interesting -wa nee.....That isn't common, but high-grade magic -da wa. Seeing as how the words of the Races are being used, it would seem that it was created by someone of the Races though....."

Probably even the Royal Capital Magician's Guild wouldn't be able to create this sort of facility. Even just the existence of this building was a great discovery. It seemed that the Feudal Lord Lamnites and the soldiers that were here were dazzled by goods like arms endowed with magic, but it was the dungeon itself that held the true value.

Sometimes, arms and magic tools that were by no means could be created by the people of Races but were created for the sake of the people of the Races despite that were discovered. Treasures of the Gods' making were called 《Sacred Treasures》.

This dungeon itself was unmistakably a Sacred Treasure.

And then, according to the information from the Adventurer's Guild, there were still no Adventurers that have reached the lowest floor.

—Even if I were to just report this to the Church, it seems like it would turn into a splendid reward, wouldn't it?

Henrick picked out the soldiers.

"About four people that excel in knowledge—with these four, me, and Geibalt-dono, we six will advance first. Once the gondola returns, the remaining people will challenge it. However, do not do the unreasonable."

"Understood!"

"Our true duty is in protecting Lamnites-sama. Of course, both bringing back powerful arms and investigating the Magician called Diablo are important, but you must not lose your lives in a place like this."

"We will take that to heart!"

"Very good!"

Henrick was indeed a knight-like knight.

Geibalt asked him a question.

"About that Magician called Diablo, are you really just investigating him?"

"Yes. Lamnites-sama has highly valued his deed of protecting Zircon Tower City,

and although he has called himself a Demon King, he would become war potential depending on the negotiations—That is what she is thinking."

"I see....."

When a gigantic Demonic Beast drew near Zircon Tower City, it seems that that Magician called Diablo repulsed it.

—Does he think of himself as a champion of justice? It makes me vomit -wa ne! Although Geibalt cursed him in his mind, he expressed a smile.

"I would like to take Lumachina-sama under my protection though?"

"In regards to that, of course we shall cooperate with you. However, right now, it seems that the High Chief Priest has been afflicted with the Marked Death Disease."

"So it would seem -wa ne."

"The one called Diablo had said that there was a treasured article that could cure the Marked Death Disease in this dungeon. Normally, he would not be believed in, but those are the words of a Magician that possesses superhuman strength after all."

"I get it. Great expectations were place on you, right?"

"Yes, we have received orders from Lamnites-sama to first cooperate with Diablo and search for the treasured article."

"I understand very well now."

"Once we cross over to the other side with the gondola, we will catch up to them, and then I intend on offering to cooperate with them."

"Then we will have hurry, won't we?"

"We will catch up to them soon. We have seen their backs after all."

Geibalt thought about things.

—Joining together huh?

A soldier that went to do some more reconnaissance came back and made a report.

It seemed that Diablo's group advanced on to the next floor. They had taken off their clothes due to the excessive heat—That sort of information was also given.

After that, information that the gondola had returned was also obtained.

Henrick nodded.

"Yosh, let's go!"

"Nn~That's enough, you all. Going this far is enough, got it?"

Geibalt tossed a crystal.

"Eh?"

A shadow fell from above the soldiers.

It was a Summoned Beast large enough that its head scraped the cavern's ceiling. Pebbles fell down from the ceiling.

It opened up its enormous mouth that was lined with fangs.

"Gofuu!"

Spitting out a rotten smelling breath, its hands that were thicker than a log held aloft a gigantic hammer that was larger than a person.

The soldiers that looked up at it stiffened up.

Henrick opened his eyes wide.

"Wh, what in the world, is this? Why, is something like this here? A Summoned Beast? Why? Geibalt-dono.....this is?"

"You, although you were a fairly good man.....I'm sorry 'kay. I'm a woman that lives for her job. Once the High Chief Priest was found, I no longer need the bothersome insects -wa. Thanks for your hard work."

"What do you mean!?"

Henrick extended his hand to the sword on his waist.

Geibalt expressed a devilish smile. With a *pachin*, he winked.

"Crush 'em along with their balls, 《Archdemon》!!"

"OoOoOoOOOOOOOooo—————!!"

The gigantic War Hammer was swung down from the ceiling.

Henrick's silver long sword easily broke and fell.

Gushari The sound of flesh being smashed was made.

Chapter 3: Continuation - Trying Out Capturing the Dungeon

Part 1

Fifth underground floor—

[Things like @Master and a Lovely Live]^[1]

Diablo was not an idol otaku. He was a shut-in, but he was a serious MMORPG gamer.

However, there was something called the flow of society.

If he was going to try and master the MMORPG Cross Reverie, he would inevitably have to master the collab events too.

A collab event was a tie-up plan with another game. Things like the other game's characters and items would appear.

And then, right when he was making the dungeon in his personal space—
There was a collaboration with a social game that was an idol game called [Sister Carnival].

The nickname was SisKani.

Because the development companies were the same or something, it was a pretty high importance event, and there were arms and items that could only be obtained in this collaboration.

There was a specification that unless one advanced several hours in using a SisKani account, the Cross Reverie side's scenario couldn't be cleared.

Diablo played SisKani as well. That was natural.

SisKani had a small strange setting where "all of the idols affiliated with the office were the Player's little sisters".

Even so, he played it to the point that he could at least remember the main heroine's name.

It wasn't particularly because of that but.....On this floor, a SisKani-like mechanism had been prepared.

They opened the door.

"Ugh.....!?"

Rem narrowed her eyes.

White.

As far as the eye could see, it was pure white.

"Eh? Isn't this snow!?"

Shera raised her voice. Even her breath had become white.

Lumachina was surprised and scooped up some snow that was at her feet.

"It, it really is.....snow.....no way.....even though this place should be underneath the lava.....?"

"Come to think of it, it's cold all of a sudden, isn't it -ssu ne?"

Horun had fallen from a heatstroke, but he had completely recovered with Lumachina's power of miracles.

It is extremely convenient to be travelling together with a high leveled Healer.

With a *kushu!*, Horun sneezed.

"S, so cold -ssu~"

".....Let's move on ahead."

Even Rem's voice was trembling a bit as she said that pretending to be calm.

"Uuuu, it's—so—cold—!!"

Shera also raised a loud voice.

Diablo shrugged his shoulders.

"Some pretty strong monsters have been posted on this floor, you know?"

"Hii!?"

Panicking, Shera covered up her mouth with both hands. A bit late to be doing that now.

Besides, the monsters would attack them here.

".....I can hear something."

Rem's panther ears twitchingly moved.

Music could be heard from deep inside the dungeon.

It was an up-tempo idol song. It had the vocals included.

It was the SisKani theme song, and was a BGM that could be obtained in the collab event. It was a song that received deep seated support from a portion of the Players.

That was what was being played.

And then, matching the song—

"Huh, what in the world is that? The monsters are, dancing?"

Shera's eyes went round.

They were hairy, giant-type monsters, and the superior version of the 《Yeti》, 《White Jägers》.

There were about 30 of them.

They created a circle in the narrow passage, and while dancing along with the music, they went around in a circle.

They were doing something that made them look like idiots but.....

Level 93.

Normal weapons wouldn't even make a scratch on them, and on top of having a high resistance to magic, they were monsters with high HP.

If Diablo were in his normal condition, they wouldn't be much of a problem.

However, right now, his HP, MP and the potions he had on hand were all insufficient.

To be honest, he wanted to avoid battle here.

Rem asked a question.

".....Going by the trends up until now, it doesn't seem like we are supposed to simply defeat the monsters and breakthrough them, right?"

"So you've noticed."

Since Diablo knew already, it would have been alright if he explained it immediately, but as the producer of the dungeon, he was interested as to whether or not she realized the mechanism.

".....There are several places in the ring that are lacking."

"Umu."

".....Should we pass through there? No, in that case, there would be no need for them to be dancing."

"Umu umu."

".....Could it be, are we supposed to join in with those monsters' dancing circle?"

"Ohh, you've realized it surprisingly easily."

Rem made an exasperated looking face.

".....The one that created this dungeon, even though they possess God-like power, their ideas are childish. What meaning is there to this."

"Guhah!?"

Diablo plainly received mental damage.

Going *Ahaha*, Shera laughed.

"It's fine, isn't it? I like it, you know? I prefer things like dancing and singing over swords and magic."

".....Once we return to town, go cancel your registration, and go become a dancer or something."

"Don't wanna—"

Lumachina nodded.

"But, I also like this sort of mechanism over fighting. I'm sure we won't get injured."

"Naive -ssu!"

Horun shook his head left and right.

He pointed his finger with a snap.

"Those monsters, they're super strong -ssu! There are a lot of 《White Jägers》 in the northern mountains -ssu, but they are atrocious guys that are said to have destroyed the neighboring northern countries -ssu! If they were to attack, our lives would be in terrible, terrible danger -ssu!"

Rem nodded.

".....Most likely, if we were to make a mistake in the dance, wouldn't they come and attack us?"

Suddenly, Shera looked over to Diablo's direction and tilted her head.

"What's wrong? It looks pretty fun though."

Going *Ha!*, he hurriedly tightened up his expression. He was having so much fun perusing his own mechanism that he unconsciously let his guard down and relaxed.

"It is nothing. The mechanism is, just as you all have guessed. Let's go, there is a need for everyone to learn the dance. It's a repetition of a constant rhythm, but be careful of changing keys."

"Y, yes, we will do our best."

Rem nodded with a serious expression.

Shera raised up both hands.

"Ya—y, this looks like fun!"

"Kami-sama, please protect us....."

Lumachina drew the holy symbol in the air in front of her chest.

Horun looked confident.

"Fu fu fu—, remembering patterns is my specialty -ssu! I am a Seeker after all -ssu kara ne!"

Diablo was clapping his hands.

"One two, one two, and right turn! Step, step, jump! That's it, good. Rem, don't forget to smile."

"Yes, Diablo!"

"Only for now, call me Producer!"

"Eh? Y, yes, pro.....? Producer?"

"Horun, you're falling behind! Be conscious of your stride in the step."

"Yes -ssu!"

Rem didn't seem to have any experience with dancing, but her physical abilities were high. Since she was smart, she immediately caught on.

Shera had simply liked singing and dancing, so she learned it in no time. She was already singing while she danced. Moreover, she was good enough to put idols to shame.

Even Lumachina, her physical condition should have been bad, but since she had danced as part of her High Chief Priest duties, she made this dance even feel divine.

As for Horun, maybe because of his appearance, it seemed like an elementary schooler's game but.....Well, that wasn't mistaken.

Diablo made a deep nod.

"Very good."

"Haa.....haa.....Is it finally time, Producer!?"

"Umu! It's the live performance. Show the audience (monsters) your earnest dance!"

""""""Yes!""""-ssu"

At a break in between the songs, they approached the ring in one go.

The five of them settled themselves into the places where the ring was broken.

Jirori The 《White Jägers》 glared at them. It felt as if they were asking "Who the hell are these guys?"

However, they didn't attack. They were still observing.

The song's intro started.

The curtain to the live performance—

Rose.

Suddenly, Shera's singing voice reverberated.

Mixing in with the singing voices of the idols, without being outdone by them at all, she didn't miss a single note.

And then, it was the first pose. Raising one hand, and from there, stepping to the right. One step in a clockwise rotation.

Left turn, put out a leg and pull it in, put it out and pull it in, one two.

—In the game, it was a combination of pose instructions and movement management, but here, I have to dance it myself.

He was keeping up because his physical abilities were high, but it was a pretty hard work-out.

Lumachina, who wasn't in perfect condition, was running out of breath.

However, he couldn't help her out.

Rem turned a worried gaze at her, but Lumachina replied with a smile. It looked like she was trying to say "I'm alright!"

As if to pull the two of them along, Shera's singing voice went out ever farther.

With it reverberating within them, their dancing became even sharper.

They were a whole lot better than they were during practice.

Seeing that, it was enough for Diablo to get goosebumps.

Even the gazes of the 《White Jägers》 became glued onto her.

As if being lifted up by Shera, Rem and Lumachina's dancing also became remarkably better. They got on board with it.

Diablo and Horun were just barely keeping up.

And then, as they headed towards the finale, the dance accelerated.

At this point, rather than being a dance circle, it seemed more like Shera, Rem, and Lumachina were the main performance, and the ones surrounding them became back dancers.

When they entered the last key change, Diablo involuntarily became fascinated.



The song ended.
Shera stopped moving in the finishing move. It felt as if spotlights had been

placed on her.

Rem and Lumachina were breathing with their shoulders.

"Haa, haa, haa.....Stupid Shera.....You, what are you getting so heated up on your own for."

"Ehehe, but it was fun, right?"

"Ha—.....ha—.....ha—.....Fu, fufu.....That's true.....It was hard work. But.....It was fun. For me, to think that dancing was fun.....This was the first."

Lumachina hugged Shera.

"UOOOOOOO———!!"

Suddenly, the 《White Jägers》 howled.

When it was done correctly, they shouldn't have made any sort of reaction.

—Could it be, did we make a mistake somewhere!?

"core! core! core!"

They started to repeatedly call out some thing.

After listening closely.....

"Encore! Encore! Encore!"

To think that an encore would be desired by the monsters.....

There were even some among them that were wiping their eyes.

However, since they would end up going back to their former spot if they were to perform once more, they couldn't do that.

It would be great if things ended with this but—

Going *gofu gofu*, the 《White Jägers》 glared at a part of the ring.

Horun had fallen.

"U, um.....I was fascinated by Shera-san and the others and....."

It would seem that because it was late in the final step, he ended up bumping into a 《White Jäger》 that was next to him.

The monsters' hate was all gathered on Horun.

He couldn't just abandon him like this.

Diablo took out the 《Staff of Tenma》 that was stored in his pouch.

"Run, Horun! 《Cross Blizzard》!!"

It was a level 110 Water and Wind attribute magic.

Two tornadoes sprung forth.

It would freeze all that it touched, and in addition to that, they would be smashed and scattered by the gales.

Immediately after the 《White Jägers》 turned into an ice sculpture, they changed into very small fragments—that isn't how it ended up being. Only a portion of the surface body hair was broken, and no conclusive damage passed through to the body.

At most, it only dulled its movements.

Also, it became a smokescreen.

Horun restlessly ran in between the gaps of the monsters' large builds.

"FUWAAaAaAaaah~~~~!!"

"Go!"

Diablo pointed towards the exit.

Shera waved and beckoned him.

"H, hurry—!!"

"It's, heavy!"

Rem strenuously pulled the iron door open.

She then pushed Lumachina, who was looking worried and waiting, inside the doors.

"Hya!?"

"Shera, you go on ahead inside too!"

"U, un!"

While falling and stumbling over, Horun arrived at the exit. He passed through the doors that continued to the staircase.

Rem shouted.

"Diablo——!!"

"Umu!"

The moment that he thought that he would retreat, something came flying at him from behind.

—Cra.....

His head had reacted, but his body was heavy.

Maybe it was because fatigue was accumulating from it being really hot and then being really cold. He didn't make it in time to avoid it.

He received a direct hit on his back.

He was blown away.

So it was a snowball.

It was a snowball that felt as if it was compressed into ice.

The Physical Damage Reduction effect was applied, but he still received damage that he couldn't ignore despite that.

"Guh....."

As expected of level 93. To think that damage would get through with a snowball.!

It had become hard for him to breath since he had a direct hit to his back, but he couldn't stop moving.

Snowballs came flying in succession.

He had somehow evaded them.

However, Diablo understood that the 《White Jägers》 were also heading towards the door.

He became unable to approach the exit due to the barrage.

While he was stuck like this, they were closing up the distance. When surrounded by high level monsters, the worst outcome was possible.

Rem, who was waiting at the exit, shouted his name with a voice that sounded like a scream.

Diablo curved his lips into a broad grin.

"It's time."

The intro started playing.

The 《White Jägers》' attacks stopped. They cheerfully returned to their original spots. They formed a ring once again.

Diablo headed towards the door at a quick pace. He joined up with Rem and the others.

—And then, the next song starts.

Translator's Notes:

[\[1\]](#) Reference to iDOLM@STER and Love Live

Part 2

The sixth underground floor—

[What seeks a meal in a dungeon is.....]

This time, it was a stage that looked like they were in a forest where vegetation grew rampant. It helped that it wasn't that hot or that cold.

There was even a gently flowing river, and they were able to replenish the water in their canteens.

Horun was disheartened.

"I, I am terribly sorry -ssu.....I unconsciously, became fascinated, and my step ended up being short.....N, next time! Next time, I will definitely make it a success -ssu, Producer-san!"

—That's already come to an end!

Diablo shrugged his shoulders.

"Do not worry about it."

"I will absolutely be super useful -ssu!"

Rem breathed a small sigh.

".....Please don't push yourself too much. It will be enough if you just don't hold us back."

Those were words that seemed like she was comforting him but looked like they were gouging into him with a knife. It was acrimonious.

Shera smiled.

"It's alright, it's alright, everyone is safe after all. We'll be able to handle the next one too, definitely."

As usual, it was baseless encouragement.

Lumachina nodded.

"Horun-san, it is all thanks to you that we were able to make it this far, so please do not be discouraged."

"R, right -ssu! Next time, no matter what kind of monster appears, I will take them down -ssu!"

Horun had a fighting spirit that was greater than any he had shown up until now.

Diablo pointed forward.

"It's here, a monster."

A large crab that had an overall length of 30 meters was enshrined in front of the door.

The 《Grand Cancer》 was level 99—It was a top-class monster in terms of sturdiness. Its gigantic pincers could bisect even a knight's armor. Its movement by means of its eight legs was surprisingly fast, and it possessed a bubble breath that had a poison effect.

It was an aquatic monster, but it was stronger when on land.

Since it looked like Horun was going to charge at it, Diablo picked him up by the collar and stopped him.

"You will die."

"So harsh～ -ssu!?"

His dagger was a poor quality article that didn't even have magic bestowed upon it. It was N (normal) grade iron trash.

It probably wouldn't even give scratch damage on the 《Grand Cancer》.

And then, although Horun was fast for being around level 20, it was impossible for him to evade the attack of a level 99 monster.

Being unable to bestow damage even if he were to hit, he could only see a future where he would be bisected by the pincers.

As he was complaining, a voice was sent out from the monster that originally shouldn't be able to talk.

[Dedicate an offering to me!]

Shera's eyes went round.

"That crab, it talked!?"

Rem shook her head sideways.

".....Just like the riddle telling from earlier, it's surely a mechanism of the dungeon. I don't like its self-important attitude but.....What does it mean by offering?"

[Offer onto me soft chicken meat that is grilled with fragrant herb, and a flavorful seven herb soup!]

Rem narrowed her eyes.

".....Its unpleasantly specific, isn't it."

"It's like an order at a restaurant."

Shera tilted her head.

[Also, a drink too.]

It was totally an order at a family restaurant.

Lumachina put both of her hands together.

"In other words, we have to cook, correct?"

".....That seems to be the case.....It's a mechanism that seems like a joke, but I suppose it's better than having to fight."

Rem surveyed the area.

On the ceiling, the bare rock lit up and it was bright as if sunlight were shining.

Their surroundings had turned into a forest.

There was the sound of a river, and the cries of birds could be heard in the distance.

".....Is this place telling us to use this?"

On top of a flat stone, an iron pot, a frying pan, and plates were prepared.

Shera caressed her stomach.

"Now that you mention it, I'm pretty hungry—."

".....Certainly, taking a break around here does not sound that bad. People can die due to hunger after all."

Lumachina nodded.

"That is true. Kami-sama is saying this, that "this is not where you should die"."

"I'll do the cooking -ssu! I request the best equipment -ssu!"

Horun clenched his fists and got some fighting spirit.

And so, this was a floor where you make the cooking that was ordered. If they succeeded in the cooking, the 《Grand Cancer》 would move away from in front of the exit.

Rem put up her fingers.

".....There were two orders. They were chicken meat and soup but.....What did it mean by "grilled fragrant herb" and "seven herb"? "

She looked at Diablo's direction.

They might not exist in this world.

"Herb cooked means to cook chicken meat that was covered with herbs. Seven-herb indicates a season's vegetation. On this floor, there should be seven kinds of plants that have "herb" in the name."

".....I see, so we will have to obtain plants from the forest.....And that will be preparations for the soup at the same time. Come to think of it, about how good is everyone's cooking skill?"

This was his first time doing genuine cooking.

When they were in Faltra City, they only took quests where they could either come back within the day, or go to a nearby place where they could get by with some food that they carried. They would always use the inn 《Relief》 or restaurants in the vicinity.

Even when they slept outdoors, at most they would heat up jerky and dried sweet potato.

First, Rem made a personal statement.

".....To be honest, cooking isn't really my strong point. Meat being raw is the best."

"Eh, doesn't your stomach get upset with that?"

Shera found that strange.

Rem puffed up her chest.

".....There isn't a Pantherian that would get a stomach ache from eating raw meat."

"Is that so!?"

Pantherians were wilder than expected.

Shera raised both of her hands.

"As for me, gathering nuts and berries are my specialty!"

Elves were said to live their lives in fertile and abundant forests that were blessed by God, and obtained only the necessary amount of fruits and berries when it was necessary.

—It was a mistake to expect cooking skills from her.

Lumachina expressed a calm and collected smile.

Expectations gathered on her who was overflowing with knowledge and devotion.

"Meals are things that are lined up while praying to Kami-sama, aren't they?"

Come to think of it, she was the temple's High Chief Priest-sama that was nothing more than sheltered young woman. It seemed like she has not even washed her own plates before.

He didn't know since they only munched on preserved foods in their adventure up until now but.....It seemed that Lumachina had absolutely no Housework Skills.

Diablo muttered.

"That was surprisingly useless."

".....That really was useless."

"That was pretty much no good at all."

"Hau!?"

It was a rare occurrence where Lumachina grew timid.

Horun raised his hand.

"Here -ssu! If it's cooking, I'd like for you all to leave it to me -ssu!"

"Hou?"

He was pretty promising.

However, maybe because of all the things that happened up until now, Rem turned doubtful eyes towards him.

".....Is cooking your specialty? Well then, have you ever made grilled fragrant herb chicken and seven herb soup before?"

"N, no -ssu! But I can grill -ssu! If it's grilled, anything is delicious -ssu!"

".....Now that you mention it, you just spit-roasted everything. Rejected. Just go and make the fire or something."

"Uguu"

Shera placed a hand on Horun's shoulder.

"Ehehe, well then, we'll leave making the hearth to you, okay? Rem and I will go and gather the, seven herb was it? We'll go and get that."

"G, got it -ssu! I'll leave it to you -ssu!"

Horun hit his chest.

Lumachina tilted her head.

"Um, what should I do?"

".....Why don't you just pray to Kami-sama or something.....No, please go and wash the pot and dishes."

Having been given a duty, Lumachina expressed a smile.

"Yes, I will do my best. I can fetch water too, right?"

It was probably a situation where their lives were at risk, but the girls were able to put that aside and were proactive.

Rem called out to him.

"Now then, let's go, Diablo."

"Eh?"

He involuntarily let out his original voice.

While he was gazing at the girls, he completely went into his “when his classmates are discussing and getting roused up, he would separate from that ring” self. It was his usual habit but.....

"Umu, I will allow it."

Diablo corrected himself with a Demon King-like tone.

Although she was tilting her head, she continued talking.

"We do not know what this seven herbs thing is. I was thinking that we would have Diablo choose them out and we would go pick them."

"That is reasonable."

Since he had only seen them as graphics, he wasn't sure if he could tell the correct one by seeing the actual one growing in the forest.

He didn't have much confidence, but he had no choice but to do it.

In the MMORPG Cross Reverie, Diablo had not chosen 《Chef》 as his sub-class. It was probably impossible to do superhuman feats like he did when he was compounding.

And then, even himself in the real world, he was in a predicament where he would go “Cooking? I can heat it up if it's a convenience store bento, so where's the microwave oven?”

—Remember! I've got to remember the items' graphics!

Normally, they weren't things that would grow in a single place, but in this forest, all of the seven herbs were positioned here.

In between suspicious red and blue flowers, there were some green herbs.

"That is, nazuna (shepherd's purse). No, is it hotokenoza (henbit)? In any case, it's one of the seven herbs."

"Understood."

Shera brought over a wide leafed herb.

"Look, look, Diablo! There was some basil!"

"Umu."

He hadn't seen the real thing, but in the game, it was an item that was displayed as 《Fresh Herb》.

It was a necessary ingredient in making 《soft grilled fragrant herb chicken》.

When he created the dungeon, he set it so that the ingredient gathering would be simple. Thanks to that, they were able to obtain them without much effort.

Rem counted the plants they had gathered.

".....With this, it should be enough for the seven herbs, so all that's left is the chicken meat."

"What should we do?"

".....How about using your Summoned Beast?"

"Y, you can't go and eat my 《Turkey Shot》, got it!?"

".....It was a joke. If we prepared it for cooking, it would return to being a crysta.....Ah!! Shera, over there!"

Shera readied her bow at the same time that Rem pointed her finger.

In between the plants, a round and fat bird could be seen. If it was that, it would probably be enough meat for several people.

However, there was a problem.

Diablo raised his voice.

"Wait, don't turn it to stone!"

"Oh yeah!"

Shera's jet black bow had magic bestowed upon it by the Demon King Krebskrum.

It would 《Petrify》 the target that it gave damage to. The effect time was unknown.

The arrow was fired from that bow.

Just as he was thinking "even though there's no meaning if it's a petrified chicken even if it hits!?"—

Shera's fired arrow pierced through a branch that was right over the target's head, and made it drop. The 《Petrified》 branch struck the chicken's head.

Koke—!! Leaving behind that cry, the chicken fainted.

Rem breathed a sigh.

".....That was splendid."

"I did it!"

".....As expected of a high level Archer."

"I'm a Summoner!"

Shera pouted her lips looking discontented.

However, even from Diablo's point of view, she was a praiseworthy Archer. She was a back attacker that could be relied on.

Rem magnificently drained the killed chicken. And then, she repeatedly stabbed a fork into it.

Shera, who was watching beside her, tilted her head.

"What are you doing?"

".....With this, the meat will become soft. The order was for “soft chicken meat” after all."

"I see—"

".....I think that keeping it like this is much more delicious though? That’s what I think though?"

He took the fresh meat from the disappointed Rem.

Diablo properly rubbed salt and pepper on both sides of the chicken meat. Since they had shed a large quantity of sweat earlier, he made it a bit more saltier.

It was cooking that the gatekeeper 《Grand Cancer》 ordered, but he would make their own portions as well. Unlike the game, they would get hungry in reality, and if they don’t eat, they would become unable to move.

He minced the herbs that Shera picked, sprinkled it on the skin-side, and pressed down on it with his fingers.

Incidentally, skin-side meant “the side where the chicken meat’s skin was”.

Rem was impressed.

".....You’re well-informed, aren’t you, Diablo?"

"I read it in a manga.....No, it, it’s because I am a Demon King! It’s only natural!"

".....I see, so you have extensive knowledge in all things. I also, need to expand my knowledge more."

When he was creating this dungeon, it was a menu that he happened to see in a manga. As for actually making it, this was his first time.

The hard part was, grilling it with the frying pan.

In the stove that Horun created, gathered withered branches were burning. He wasn’t able to obtain a steady heating power like with a gas burner.

First, he grilled the side sprinkled with fragrant herbs. So that he wouldn’t burn it, he would occasionally lift it up and look at its state.

When the heating power was too strong, it would burn, and the heat wouldn’t get through to the center. That being said, when the fire was too weak, it would take more time and the meat would get hard. It was difficult adjusting the heating power with the frying pan’s location.

Once the skin-side was grilled, he flipped it over and grilled the opposite side.

The aroma of the herbs hung in the air. It had a delicious-looking impression that was enough for Horun to make a slurping sound with his drool.

"Amazing -ssu! Terrific -ssu!"

"How is the soup?"

It was right when Lumachina was sampling it.

"The seasoning is perfect. I would have liked to have bouillon to use though."

"As long as we were able to make it, it's fine."

Lining up the plates, Lumachina offered her prayers to God, and it had become time to eat.

Horun shouted.

"It's— so— yummy— -ssu—!!"

"It really is, it's delicious."

Lumachina elegantly cut the grilled fragrant herb chicken into pieces, and carried it little by little to her mouth. With every mouthful that she ate, her expression broke out into a smile.

Rem bit into the chicken meat that was specially finished half-grilled just for her without cutting it.

".....Putting it modestly, it is the best."

"So delicious—!! It might be the most delicious meat among all of the meat that I've eaten until now!"

It seemed that it was quite favorable even for Shera who liked vegetables over meat.

Diablo also tried eating it.

The stench of meat was completely gone thanks to the aroma of the herbs.

Nevertheless, the juicy deliciousness of the chicken meat spread out right when it was caught in the mouth.

"Umu."

Feigning calmness, he muttered only a single word.

In his mind, he was making an applause.

—Come to think of it, although this was my first time making it.....I feel like I'll be able to make it better next time. If I have a stove with steady heating power, I feel like I'd burn it less, and it would smell even better.

In this other world, there wasn't something like a Status display, but if this were the MMORPG Cross Reverie, wouldn't the current Diablo have acquired the

sub-class 《Chef》 at level 1? He had an feeling like it would actually be like that. Lumachina talked sounding apologetic.

"Compared to the grilled fragrant herb chicken, the soup ended up having an unsatisfactory taste."

"Ahaha, although it's delicious. That might be true—."

Shera was of the same opinion.

Lumachina didn't have the Cooking Skill, but since she only ate good things, it seemed that her tastes were sharp.

"I think that the aroma of the seven herbs and the seasoning is sufficient but..... the depth of the flavor is lacking. As I thought, I would have liked some meat or fish bouillon. The soup is losing out."

"I kinda feel like I might want a soft and chewy ingredient in it?"

Surprisingly, Shera also had a high class tongue. Despite being a glutton that would eat anything.

Diablo also tried drinking the soup.

".....Fumu? It is not bad but, you want a unique flavor huh."

"But, if we put chicken meat in this, it will overlap way too much with the grilled fragrant herb."

"I think that it's yummy though -ssu kedo ne—?"

It seemed that Horun, having a tongue of the poor, didn't have any complaints. Rem, who had a cat's tongue (unable to handle hot food), blew on the soup with all her might to cool it down.

—A more unique flavor huh.

[Devote to me, an offering!]

The 《Grand Cancer》 that wouldn't move from in front of the gate once again called out to them.

Come to think of it, he was so engrossed with the meal that he forgot about the order.

Diablo muttered.

"A more unique flavor huh."

Ten minutes later—

Lumachina raised a delighted sounding voice.

"My, how delicious! This is my first time having such a delicious soup!"

"Amazing! So amazing!"

Shera was also satisfied.

Horun was so deeply moved emotionally that he was crying.

"Incredible -ssu! My cheeks are trembling -ssu! It's one of those things where it's so good that your cheeks fall off, isn't it -su ne!"

".....Sho good."

Rem changed into an infant.

Diablo nodded looking satisfied.

"Umu, as I thought—Crab hotpot is the best!"

Part 3

The third day since entering the dungeon—

They arrived at the ninth underground floor that said [Take caution overhead]. If it was the game, all thirteen floors could be cleared if one had an hour and a half but.....on top of each floor taking up time, even moving through the staircases took up time.

Lumachina's nevi increased up to seven.

—Just two more huh.

Since there weren't any mechanisms on the thirteenth floor, there were four more floors left to go. He calculated that if they hurried, they would arrive before the day was over.

Rem's panther ears twitched.

".....There's the sound of a river, and it's big."

"Now that you mention it, there might be the smell of water?"

Shera also sniffed her nose.

Diablo nodded.

"Beyond here, there is a thin path that runs along a cliff. Flying monsters should come attacking."

Thinking of it from a dungeon capturing aspect, if they were lenient on countermeasures against flying type monsters, it would surely be an

unexpectedly hard fight—That was what was in mind for the layout of this floor.

If it was with this party, there was no problem.

Diablo alone had plenty of anti-aircraft firepower, and Shera was also there.

And even if they received a small amount of damage, Lumachina was there.

The lineup was Diablo, Rem, Lumachina, Horun, and then Shera. By putting the air defense units at the front and back, they would protect the entire group.

"Continue on while watching where you step."

Below the cliff, the muddy stream that had a pretty fast flow was making the sound of rushing water.

In the game, it would only push and drag them back to the starting point of the ninth floor, but in this other world, the harshness of its movement was incredible.

There was also the possibility of drowning if one were to fall in while wearing armor.

"You need to be particularly cautious, got it, Horun?"

"It's alright -ssu!"

Just as Diablo had created it, there was a path thin enough that only one person could pass through it at a time going along the cliff.

Although it is called a cliff, this was inside of a dungeon—halfway up the vast cave, there was a thin path that went along the inner wall, and the underground water was flowing at the bottom of the cave, that was the shape it took.

And then, the flying monsters discovered them.

"Wah—, they're here—!!"

While raising a scream, Shera shot her arrows.

On top of her reliable ability, the magical effect bestowed on her bow was powerful. Just by scratching them, it would 《Petrify》 the monsters.

It felt as if just her alone would be enough for them to breakthrough.

Diablo wanted to economize his MP, but just to be sure, he decided that he would also attack. He pushed the 《Staff of Tenma》 out towards the sky.

"《Lightning Arrow》!!"

It was a Light attribute magic where a shining bullet is fired, and is the superior version of 《Bit Arrow》. It pierced through the target.

The strength of the attacking monsters, and their movement patterns were just as he had set them to.

No problem.

That is how it should have been.

A monster that he had never seen before came attacking from the sky.

It was a snake that had grown wings.

—No, I have a memory of that. This thing, it's a Summoned Beast!?

It was the Summoned Beast 《Flying Worm》.

Rem shouted.

"!! Diablo, there's a Summoner on this floor!"

"So it would seem!"

If the Summoner was defeated, the Summoned Beast would disappear—That being said, they couldn't ignore the Summoned Beast that was approaching them right before their eyes.

He turned the 《Staff of Tenma》 towards it.

"《Explosion》!!"

The explosion enveloped its target.

At that instant—

Their narrow footing split open, and a 《Trap Worm》 appeared.

"Dodge it!"

Rem noticed it just before it appeared, and pushed Lumachina.

"Kyaa!?"

They were in a dangerous spot, but they were just barely able to evade it.

—This Summoned Beast is!? Could it be, is it that Summoner from that time!?

They had endured the worm's attack, but the path was destroyed and the party was split apart. On the front side, there was Diablo and Rem, and at the back there was Lumachina, Horun, and Shera.

The enemy wasn't lenient enough to let that chance go to waste.

"Ou— ho ho ho!! I've got you now——!!"

Amazingly, a blue armored man appeared from the hole that the 《Trap Worm》 dug out.

Lumachina shouted.

"Geibalt!?"

It was the Holy Knight that tried to kill Lumachina near Faltra City. To think that

he would chase her even to a place like this!

The place that he made his appearance was way too close to Lumachina.

There wasn't enough space for Diablo to use magic.

Diablo possessed many means to defend against attacks that were aimed towards himself, but he didn't have any magic meant to protect a party.

Rem, who excelled at close combat, was on Diablo's side. Shera was only shooting her arrows at the monsters that were in the sky.

Geibalt's long sword swung down towards Lumachina.

"For the sake of my large reward, dieee!!"

"Kuh....."

"I won't let you -ssu—!!"

The one that pushed Lumachina aside and jumped in was Horun.

If Horun were to receive the attack with his poor quality dagger, going by Holy Knight Geibalt's level, the attack would probably cut through him, dagger and all.

Maybe because he knew that, he hurled himself at one of Geibalt's legs.

Normally, it would only be at the level of destroying his balance a bit.

However, this was a thin path. On top of that, since the 《Trap Worm》 ate and destroyed it, it had become considerably narrower.

The Holy Knight lost his footing from the path.

"Whaah—!? What're you doing, you little shit—!!"

He stabbed him with his sword.

Blood fluttered about.

"Aguh!?"

While raising a scream, Horun also ended up falling.

Diablo kicked the ground.

Chasing after him, he leapt into the air.

"Rem! Continue on ahead!!"

There was no time to confirm whether or not those words were transmitted to her. *Gou* Wind sounded close to his ears, and he was steadily drawing near the muddy stream.

"Diablo!? Diablo————!!"

He heard shouts that were similar to Rem's screaming.

First, the Holy Knight Geibalt fell towards the muddy stream. Immediately after that, Horun also made a splash.

Following them, Diablo also did so.

He was being washed away.

"Guh.....ツ!?"

Even his powerful, high leveled body was easily swallowed up by the current. Since there wasn't any footing for him to brace himself on, that was only natural.

He dove underwater.

It was somewhat better than the raging water's surface.

When he looked ahead in the current.....

—There he is!!

The armor wearing Horun was steadily sinking.

Since the Holy Knight was also wearing metal armor, he should have been similarly sinking but.....He couldn't see his figure. Was he further ahead in the current?

Right now, he didn't have the leeway to search for Geibalt.

He chased after Horun.

If it was himself from reality, it would have been impossible for him to swim within this muddy stream that had this fast of a current.

However, there was no mistake that he could save him—he had the confidence to do that.

In the MMORPG Cross Reverie, Diablo learned the 《Underwater Movement》 skill.

—I can't be conscious of it! Not being conscious of it let's me be able display skills from the game! Believe in myself.....No, believe in Diablo! I will definitely catch up to him!

He extended his hand to Horun.

He shortened the distance.

He had no idea how he was swimming.

However, the sinking Horun's hand—was firmly grabbed by Diablo.

Chapter 4: Trying Out Saving Companions

Part 1

Even Diablo who created the dungeon didn't know where the muddy stream that crossed the stage would carry them to.

What he did was simply configure a 《waterway》 as a setting tip—Things like where the water came from, or where it was headed, he hadn't worried about that kind of thing at all.

He wouldn't be surprised if appeared with something magical, and just disappeared at the end of the stage.

However, it seemed that the water of the muddy stream was the real thing. It continued to flow to the end of the stage.

Is that a waterfall!?

They would fall together with the water.

They fell from a spot high enough that he thought that they would not survive if there was a boulder or something at the place that they were falling to.

If they were to separate again, he might not be able to find him next time. He made it so that Horun was held within his arms.

He didn't have the leisure to store the weapon he held in his hand into his pouch.

He let go of the 《Staff of Tenma》 inside of the muddy stream.

He lost his sense of up and down.

Spinning around, he no longer knew whether his own head was above him or below him.

—I'm drowning!?

His spirit was adversely affected by his anxiety but.....

《Underwater Movement》 was highly efficient. He would never have a hard time breathing, and he immediately regained his sense of equilibrium.

While holding Horun in his arms, Diablo headed for the water's surface and kicked underwater.

"Puhah!"

His head came out to the water's surface.

So it was a waterfall lake.

At the bottom of the vertically long cave, it had turned into the shape of a flask.

The water that accumulated at the bottom of the flask—It felt as if they had been submerged in there.

The current had become calm.

Using 《Underwater Movement》 once again, he swam to the edge of the accumulated water. Heaving Horun, who he carried under his arm, up onto a boulder, he then raised himself out from the water.

"Phew—.....Oi, Horun, are you alive?"

As Horun lied down on top of the dry boulder, he didn't make a response.

Maybe because he was breathing, water was spilling out from his mouth.

"Oi, answer me!"

He called out to him once more.

Although Diablo was acting calm—he felt his heartbeat getting faster. His chest tightened from an unpleasant prediction.

He brought his own hand close to Horun's small lips.

His breathing—he could feel it.

"He's alive!"

However, it seemed he was unconscious.

What about his pulse?

He grabbed his wrist. As he was flustered, he couldn't really tell.

Trying it out several times, he was able to confirm that he had a pulse. In other words, his heart was moving! He was alive!

It seemed that Horun was a level 20 Adventurer. Just as that title implied, he was fairly sturdy. Even if he was a light in body weight Grasswalker, that might be the reason that saved him.

Right now, he was in a state of fainting from shock.

Diablo patted down on his own chest.

"Phew.....Thank goodness....."

Since Horun was fainted and there was no one else around, Diablo leaked out his original voice. He even spontaneously broke into a laugh from the sense of relief.

Next, he checked Horun's shoulder that was probably cut by Geibalt.

"Fumu fumu.....There is some bleeding, but it's shallow. If it's like this, the blood might stop even if I leave it alone, won't it?"

It would be simple if he had an HP Recovery Potion, but he had used them all up before they came in to capture the dungeon.

Diablo's 《Distorted Crown》 had an HP Recovery effect, but there was a restriction that one had to be greater than level 140 to equip it. He was unable to lend it to him.

Suddenly, a sneeze came out.

"Cold.....This is bad.....I'm fine since I have the 《Curtain of Dark Clouds》 but....."

His mantle, 《The Curtain of Dark Clouds》, prevented all Bad Status conditions.

Therefore, Diablo probably wouldn't catch a cold.

However, at this rate, Horun was in danger.

He had a memory of reading a net article or something before.

—When a person's deep part (the rectum) gets below 35 degrees, they get hypothermia. And when that condition continues, it's possible for them to die. It was said that by doing something like sleeping while wearing wet clothes even in summertime, if the body temperature falls too much, then there is the danger of death.

"U—n, since I also have to treat his wounds, I guess I'll have to strip him.....I also have to create a fire, huh. Erm.....Some burnable stuff is—.....?"

He looked around but, it was a boulder.

At any rate, a boulder.

At the parts where water was touching it, there was moss that emitted a faint shine was growing there. Thanks to that, it seemed bright. However, that probably wouldn't burn.

He was able to produce a fire with magic, but without something to burn, it would be difficult to sustain it.

Ever since they entered the dungeon, he kept on consuming MP. The rest times were short, and the recovery was insufficient.

When he lost focus, he felt like he was going to fall asleep beside Horun.

—Ah—, my motivation is.....

Anything and everything was becoming troublesome.

"Jeez.....I guess it's fine to go to sleep....."

However, if Diablo stayed like this and didn't act, Horun would die right before his eyes.

"No, no, no! I can't let that happen! No matter how much of a shitty bastard I am.....That is way too terrible."

He breathed a sigh.

He tried searching for something that looked like it could burn.

"Dammit.....It looks like this is the only thing."

Diablo took off his mantle, the 《Curtain of Dark Clouds》.

This could prevent Bad Status conditions, and prevented instant death—It was SSR (double super rare) class equipment that was strengthened to the limit. It was said to be things like “EX (Extra)” or “seven convex”. It was because the number of gradations it could be strengthened was seven times.

He held this hand over that 《Curtain of Dark Clouds》.

".....I liked it quite a bit but.....Well, I guess there's no other choice."

Life can't be replaced.

Diablo muttered.

".....《Fire》"

Naturally, equipment that was taken off from his body wouldn't be a subject to Diablo's Magic Defense. The current 《Curtain of Dark Clouds》 was nothing but a wet mantle.

While it was drying by the fire cause by magic, the dry parts of it started to burn.

"Haa.....It's warm."

After that, he took off his jet black clothes, 《The Hollow of Jet Black》.

There was the danger of hypothermia if he wore wet clothes. Besides, the mantle alone was insufficient for a bonfire.

《The Hollow of Jet Black》 had a Physical Damage Reduction effect, and an effect of raising many parameters.

As expected, he kept only the pants.

It was because it would be bad if he was nude when they join up with Rem and the others.

In terms of his Demon King role-play, there would be a problem with that.

"U—n, it's still not enough.....Horun, I'll be taking your equipment as well, okay?"

He was reluctant to strip off another person's clothes though.

"Well, since we're both men, he'll forgive me, right?"

When he imagined the complaints that would be said once he regains consciousness, he felt heavy-hearted but.....

I'll get through with the Demon King role-play—That is what he thought, and then stripped him.

First, he would burn the cape.

It was a normal cape that had no magic endowments. Moreover, it was fairly old and worn-out. He was sorry if it was a keepsake, but there was nothing more important than life.....or so he hoped.

He took off the pouch belt on his waist and his arm and leg armor.

He didn't know about it from the game's graphics, but on the reverse side of the armor, there was a leather belt with a hook to keep it in place.

Since Rem used equipment that had a similar construction, he learned about it while watching them change clothes.

He also took off the wet and cold clothes.

It was a body that had absolutely no muscles and had a roundness to it.

"U—n.....Horun, wouldn't it be better if you had a bit more muscle? Even if you are a Grasswalker, you're a Warrior-type, right?"

He really wrung out the shirt and threw it onto the bonfire.

He also stripped off the bottom.

He had the tights turn into fuel. However, since it would be cruel to burn even his pants, it would probably be better just only take it off.

It looked cold to be naked, but it was much better than wearing wet clothes.

".....Huh?"

He ended up accidentally turning his gaze towards the stripped Horun's abdomen.

He tried to make it so that he didn't look at him too much but.....

—Huh?

He didn't have one attached.

"U.....n.....?"

Horun leaked out a groan.

And then, while rubbing his eyes, he raised his body.

'Thank goodness, so you were alive!' is something that he couldn't say with a

smile in this situation.

Horun was naked.

Diablo was holding was holding the pants that he just took off of him.

Moreover, this guy wasn't a "he", as he didn't have the thing that should be at his crotch, so in other words, he was a "she".

Could it be that Grasswalker males don't have one attached!?

He had never heard of such a story.

Diablo froze up, and a cold sweat trickled down the muscles along his spine.

It seems that the dumbfounded Horun finally understood the situation. Her face turned red very fast.

"Wha!? Wha, wha.....what.....!?"

Diablo stood up while still holding onto the pants.

He acted self-important and arrogant.

"Hmph! So you've finally recovered consciousness, you weakling! You should give me your greatest amount of gratitude, for your life was saved by this Demon King! Well, it was just on a mere whim though!"

"Eh!? Eh!?"

"It is because if a meagre person of the Races were to continue wearing wet clothes, they would die! Doing this, and wringing the clothes—Like this!"

Diablo wrung out Horun's pants. Making splashing sound, water fell onto the ground. He then tossed it into the bonfire.

Maybe because it was old cloth, it burned really well.

—Ah!?

Now he had done it. Even though he had intended only taking the pants off! Concealing his discomposure, he persisted in his Demon King role play.

"Hmph! Surely, you won't be saying that clothes are more important than life, will you!?"

Horun was overwhelmed and kept silent, but being somewhat late, she timidly nodded.

"I, I won't say that -ssu.....Life is.....important -ssu."

"It is fine as long as you understand!"

—Did I get through it!?

Her face was red, and she hid her slender body with both hands.

"But.....I was a bit, surprised -ssu."

—I was too!

"Do not mind it. I am a Demon King. Know that I do not mind such small and faint details."

"Th.....that's true -ssu yo ne. To Danna, whether I am a man or a woman is.....
Kushun! (Sneeze)"

"Mu. It would seem that your body is still feeling cold. You should come closer."
Diablo sat down in a place close to the bonfire. Since he had lost the 《Curtain of Dark Clouds》, he was anxious about how his own physical condition would get worse if he became careless.

It was the bonfire that he went through the trouble of burning his equipment of the highest grade and even Horun's pants to make—At the very least, he had to warm his body.

Even Horun's ears went red.

"Um.....is it really.....alright -su ka?"

"What are you hesitating for? If I didn't have the intention to save you, why would I have expressly jumped into the river for you?"

"That's true -ssu yo ne. Really, thank you -ssu.....for saving me."

She got up and got closer.

When he thought that she would surely sit on the opposite side of the bonfire—

She sat down right beside him.

—Huh?

Come to think of it, he did say "you should come closer", but he didn't say "to the bonfire".

But normally, wouldn't one think close to the bonfire?

Even though she looked embarrassed, why would she bring her body close?
Moreover, completely naked.

No, the one that stripped the clothes off was Diablo but.....

"At times when it's cold, it's warm when bodies are huddled together -ssu yo ne. In the past, I did this with my family -ssu."

"Th, that is true."

As a Demon King, being shaken up over nestled close by a childish figured Grasswalker, he felt that it was a bit different from his idea of a Demon King.
No, no matter what kind of company it is, a Demon King wouldn't be shaken up.

He needed to be confident.

Horun brought her body close.

Cold.

"It would seem that you are considerably cold."

"Ah, did you not like that -ssu ka?"

Grabbing her as she tried to separate from him, he held her close.

"Do not make any trivial reservations. If you were to attract wind, then that would make the bonfire pointless."

—I burned two EX level equipment, you know? I burn your pants too, you know?

Horun was small.

Even when compared to other Grasswalkers, it felt like her body was petite.

Moreover, she was soft, like a baby rabbit.

Within Diablo's hands, she twisted her body looking like she was embarrassed.

"It's warm -ssu~"

"It would be troubling if it weren't."

"Ehehe....."

She looked like she was nervous at first, but now she leaned her body on him.

Horun's small uncovered back touched his own skin.



He felt that her body that was like ice was slowly regaining its body temperature.

Diablo was also becoming warm.

"Fuu....."

—In some way or another, it looks like I was able to save her.

Horun placed her small hand on Diablo's hand that was placed on her shoulder. She muttered.

"Papa....."

".....Wh, at?"

Diablo stiffened up, and replied with only that.

Seeming to have realized the meaning of the word that she leaked out a bit late, Horun hurriedly half-rose to her feet.

"Ah! Um, that's, erm, respect! It had the meaning of respecting you as an Adventurer -ssu kara! So you've got it wrong -ssu kara!"

Flapping about, she grew restive.

Diablo grabbed both of her shoulders, and quieted her down.

"I understand! I understand, so do not pointlessly use your strength!"

"Hauu～"

Horun went red up to her ears and curled up.

Only the throbbing of her heart passed through the skin and was transmitted to him. *Tokutokutoku*.....

Diablo said no more.

However, his mind was actually in chaos.

—Papa!?

Just when did he become the father of a single child!?

No, no, it was because she respected him as an Adventurer, so.....But, why would she call him "Papa" for that!? Naturally, that was his first time being called that way since he was born.

Did it mean that she approached him with trust that was that special!?

Wait, wait.....It might actually just be a mere mistake in the way she called him.

To begin with, a Grasswalker's father, their outward appearance would be that of a child even if they were an adult. There was no way they would reach a physique as big as Diablo's. But, if going by an infant's point of view, even if they were a Grasswalker, wouldn't a father's hand feel big?

Or maybe, could it have been a Papa in a special kind of meaning!? No, there was no way that kind of culture would be in this other world.....

His head simmered.

With both of their faces dyed red, time flowed for awhile.

Part 2

Since they had warmed up their bodies quite a bit, they decided to move.

Relying on the flow of air, they continued further into the dungeon.

For there to be a flow of air in a cave, it was proof that they would come out further in. At the very least, it probably wasn't a dead end.

—To think I would be stranded in the dungeon that I made myself.

A small hole that went further inside stretched out from the waterfall lake.

Diablo only had his pants and his pouch on his back.

Also, there wasn't much meaning to it but, he held the 《Trial-Made Great War Scythe》 in his hand. Its appearance was that of a strong-looking War Scythe, but its performance was really bad. It was a weapon he sued for the sake of going easy on individual people.

Horun was pretty much nude.

She only had her pouch belt and her arm and leg armor on her. Since she was a Grasswalker, although she looked like a child, she wasn't a child but.....Being in a state where her flat-chested body having only equipment on is, an extremely maniac idea.

If she at least had some pants on.....No, since she was a girl, she should also have a shirt on.

A situation where a large top half naked man walking along with a mostly naked little girl, was perfectly a court case.

—If I knew that she was a woman, I wouldn't have burned her clothes though.

He reflexively asked a question.

"Why did you pose as a man?"

With a twitch, Horun made a frightened looking face.

"Th, that is....."

"If you do not want to say it, I do not mind though."

Was she in an anxious mood? She became increasingly frightened.

"Um....."I" (uchi).....was born in a town different from Zircon Tower City which is in the former Demon King territory but.....I immediately got separated from both of my parents -su"

"Hou?"

Horun forcibly stopped saying "I" (ore).

"Well, in truth, I might have been abandoned though but.....When I realized it, it ended up being just me and two little sisters....."

"I see."

The former Demon King territory was a land where even just living was difficult. Raising three children there must have had many hardships to it.

"That's why, although I don't know whether our parents are alive or dead..... But we were lucky. We were immediately picked up by Shishou after all -ssu kara."

"Was it a Seeker Shishou?"

"Yes. Well, Shishou was a thief though....."

"I see."

For a Seeker, Horun's Danger Sense and Trap Release abilities were low. Since her agility wasn't bad, in terms of Parameters, she was probably a Thief.

"And so, Shishou also died a year ago, and I separated from my sisters.....Only I came to Zircon Tower....."

"Your sisters didn't come with you?"

"Yes.....There was a merchant that employed my little sisters as employees -ssu. I was invited too -ssu, but I kind of just had a dislike for business so....."

"I understand. Just thinking about negotiating with other people.....Fighting a Dragon alone would be better."

"Eh? No, selling things that were bought cheaply for a higher price, that somehow didn't sit well with me -ssu. I understood in my head that that was only reasonable though -ssu kedo."

".....Umu."

Horun didn't have a communication disorder.

Thinking about it, she was proactive enough to invite Diablo's group to an adventure.

In order to gloss over his verbal slip, he tried asking a question.

"It is said that Grasswalkers continue to have an outward appearance of a child

no matter how what their age, but how old are you?"

"Uu.....Erm.....Keep this a secret from other people, okay -ssu yo? I'll tell this only to you, Danna, after all, got it -ssu kara ne? I am, still twelve years old -ssu."

—What!? So she was actually and truly a child!? Since she was a Grasswalker, I thought that she just had the outward appearance of a child!

Diablo hid his surprise, and nodded as if he had presumed that.

"So, it was as I thought."

"Ehehe.....So you noticed -ssu ka? But if I were to say that, no one would take me on adventures, so it's a secret, okay -ssu yo?"

With a childish gesture, she stuck out her tongue.

How cute.

—No, this is no good, am I a lolicon. Something like a lolicon Demon King, I would die socially.

Even without that, he had a kiss with Krum who looked like nothing but a little girl just a little while ago. That was the ceremony for 《Slave Magic》 though.

Diablo shook his head left and right.

Horun set her gaze on further ahead in the cave.

"Nn～.....It's dark -ssu ne."

"That is not a problem. 《Light》"

He cast magic on a small stone that he picked up. When he used it in their room at the inn before, he couldn't turn it off—Since there was that kind of problem, he tried coming up with a way to solve that.

Since he bestowed the effect of 《Light》 on the stone, he could make it dark if he were to throw this away.

And then, it became easier to carry it around like a lantern.

Horun's eyes sparkled.

"Oh～, amazing -ssu! This is my first time diving into a dungeon with a Chemical Elemental Magician -ssu kedo, but Chemical Elemental Magic is convenient, isn't it -ssu ne."

"It would seem that it isn't all that researched in this world though."

"Certainly, there are few people that use it -ssu ne. I've never seen a strong Chemical Elemental Magician like you, Danna. It'd be nice if I could use magic too -ssu kedo! As if."

Diablo thought about it for a bit.

"I do not know in what way magic is studied in this world but.....How about trying to learn it? You are still only twelve year old, aren't you? Grasswalkers should be a Race that excels in magic."

"Ehh!? Th, that's impossible -ssu yo. It's because in order to become a Magician, it's no good if you don't go to a school that the Magician's Guild runs -ssu kara.....I don't have that kind of money -ssu."

"So it needs money."

"I don't really know all that well, but it seems to need several hundreds of F (Forun), you know -ssu yo?"

"Fumu....."

Diablo's group had resolved several large cases, but they hadn't earned much F. It was to the point that they were going bankrupt from the biscuit costs that Krum eats so much of, and that the Demonic Being Edelgart was getting a job at the bakery.

—That girl, if her true identity is exposed, it wouldn't end with just being unable to stay in town but, I wonder if she's doing alright right now?

The Local Knights over there, Edelgart would probably be alright even if they grouped together against her.....

However, Faltra City's Feudal Lord, Galford, is strong. With Diablo's judgement, 6:4, Galford was probably stronger, that is how he felt.

It would be good if it didn't turn into something troublesome but.....

Horun muttered.

"I wonder if they're alright -ssu ka ne.....?"

"Umu."

"Lumachina-san and the others."

"Ah, you mean them."

He reflexively said that plainly.

Horun made a curious-looking face and tilted her head.

"Is there something else worrying you -ssu ka?"

"No, well.....Umu, it is for I am a Demon King! Putting that aside, if it's about Rem and the others, there is no need to worry about them."

"Are they alright -ssu ka?"

The ceiling had become lower. Diablo advanced while having to be careful of

what was over their heads.

The place where they were separated was the ninth underground floor. Since it was pretty much right before they cleared it, considering Shera's anti-aircraft ability, it was pretty much certain that they would breakthrough.

The Holy Knight also fell into the waterway too.

"At the end of that floor, a large mid-boss level monster is there, but it doesn't have a Debuff Resistance. They should be able to defeat it easily with Shera's 《Petrification》."

"Shera-san, she's amazing -ssu!"

There was no mistake that she was high-powered, she possesses a bow that had magic bestowed upon it by the real Demon King after all.

"The tenth floor has a moving floor as the mechanism. When stepped on carelessly, it will lead you to a room where a large quantity of monsters await."

"Hii!? Th, they aren't fine at all -ssu! It's terrible -ssu!"

"If it's Rem, she will work it out. She is cautious, and has the wisdom to stop and think about things."

"Wah—, as expected of Rem-san -ssu! So admirable -ssu!"

"And then, the eleventh floor is a graveyard."

"Erm.....You mean like tombs -ssu ka? I wonder why, is there something like that -ssu ka ne?"

"Moving corpses appear."

"Hii~~~~!? Are they Zombies -ssu ka!? Are they Zombies -ssu ka!? Moving corpses, that's totally no good -ssu!"

"As long as Lumachina is there, it's no problem. She is the High Chief Priest after all. She should be the most proficient at 《Purification》 in the Lifelia Kingdom." Horun's facial expression shined brightly.

"Alright -ssu! That's perfect -ssu! Lumachina-san, as expected of her -ssu!"

"Umu."

—That's only if the Marked Death Disease hasn't gotten worse though.

In the game, until the ninth nevi shows, they wouldn't be in that terrible of a condition. It was played out as being at the level of catching a cold.

However, the MMORPG Cross Reverie made it so that the erotic and grotesque presentations were greatly reserved. He didn't know if this world's Marked Death Disease was the same as the game's version.

Horun held her head in her hands.

"Ahh, even so, I'm worried -ssu! For the sake of someone like me, Danna and Rem-san and the others were separated!"

—You shouldn't say "someone like" about yourself, you know? That sort of thing.....it's often said, but I really understand how Horun feels.

Do not depreciate yourself—If he were to sermon her with that sort of reasoning, it would probably only make her feel excessively miserable.

Therefore, Diablo didn't say anything.

He did not regret how he saved Horun but ended up acting separately from Rem and the others.

Rem's group wasn't a bunch of amateurs. They called Diablo their "companion". At the same time they were depending on him—Those girls had the confidence that they "would not only depend on him".

Surely, even those three should be able to breakthrough as far as the eleventh floor.

"However, we need to hurry up and join up with them. The twelfth underground floor is impossible even for those three."

"Eh? Why is that -ssu ka?"

"Simply put, their levels are lacking. It wasn't a problem of their compatibility in terms of things like fighting style.....It's that the final watchman that is stationed on the twelfth underground floor is, strong. Since its Debuff resistance is high, 《Petrification》 probably won't work, and it has a barrier that negates damage under a fixed amount."

"What is that, that monster!?"

"That is why, we can't be moving too slowly."

After walking for a bit, *byoo* (whoosh), there was the sound of wind. The area ahead of them had become bright.

"Could it be the outside -ssu ka ne?"

—From the ninth underground floor, we fell down a fairly deep waterfall. I don't think we would get outside after walking through a tunnel though?

From the tunnel, they came out to a spot that had become wide.

Horun's body trembled.

"Mo, mon.....!?"

There were several monsters that were bigger than people and had horns that

looked like that of a rhinoceros beetle's horn. They moved as a group, and they dug holes and created their nests.

It was the gigantic, deep black bodied insect-type monster 《Ant Beetle》.

The accurate number was 30 of them—Diablo possessed a special skill of grasping the number of enemies not through the game character's Skill, but through his Player experience.

He recognized these guys.

When a mistake was made in the moving floor route selection on the tenth underground floor, they would be dropped into a monster house where there was a large amount of 《Ant Beetle》.

Most likely, this place was that.

Diablo smiled.

—I've figured out our current location. If we break through here, we should return to the proper route!

He placed his hand on the shoulder of the completely terrified Horun.

"Rejoice."

"Th, that's, sure, since I'm an Adventurer -ssu kara, losing my life in an adventure is to be expected but -ssu kedo! It's a bit too early -ssu! I'll die someday, but I don't want it to be today -ssu!"

"I did not mean it in that way. You are a fellow that can't be helped. Just watch."

The 《Ant Beetles》 noticed the intruders, and approached this way. When their face part opened up, their gigantic tusks were laid bare. It was much more grotesque than the game's graphics.

Diablo turned the War Scythe towards the enemies.

"Break and fall with the speed of sound, 《Sonic Boom》!!"

Part 3

The twelfth underground floor—
[Those who value their lives should leave]

Seeing the letters written on the gate, Rem gulped.

".....Up until here, even if it was a floor where high leveled monsters were deployed, the contents of the warning weren't this direct. It would seem that a suitable amount of resolve is required."

"Let's go! Having come this far, there's no way we can just go back!"

Shera's way of thinking was plain and simple. Just as she said, they can't feel timid at this point in time.

".....Naturally. However, it means that preparation and vigilance is needed."

Lumachina nodded.

"I shall provide support with all of my strength. At this point, being anxious about you two would instead be impolite of me."

"Thank you for believing us.....Lumachina, we will bring you to the lowest floor. The item that will dispel the Marked Death Disease should be there.....Besides, I am sure that Diablo and Horun will come as well. Let's go on ahead and wait for the two of them there."

"Yes."

"Let's do our best! Rem! Lumachina-chan!"

The three of them exchanged gazes with each other. They strengthened their resolve.

Rem placed her hands on the door.

She pushed it.

Gou Wind swirled, and there was some sort of sour smell.

It was a vast, spacious cave. The ceiling couldn't be compared with the other floors, and continued on endlessly.

What could faintly be seen was.....

—A blue sky?

By some chance, could this be a deep, gigantic pit, and did it continue on from the surface down to here?

Wouldn't it have been faster if we just descended down into this pit? At the same time that Rem thought this, Diablo should have a reason why he didn't do so—is what Rem thought.

The walls were grand and had become smooth as if they were polished. The ground under their feet was the same, and although it wasn't level, not even weeds were growing there.

However, she wasn't given any time to deepen her speculations.
It was because there was something coming at them from ahead.

A certain thing had just defeated a monster.

What had collapsed and lied on the floor was, a Humanoid-type monster.
Rem had not seen it anywhere other than in books but.....
Most likely, it was a 《Death Dancer》. It was a Skeleton that possessed several arms, and its killer technique called 《Bloody Dance》 would instantly cut Adventurers up into pieces.

The stern warning for it was that it was a “dreadful monster that you should definitely run away from if you come across one”.

That monster was defeated, and was changed into a mere corpse.

The man that defeated it was clad in blue armor.

He brushed up his long hair.

"Araa, were you behind me? Oh please, right when I was in a hurry to catch up to you, I ended up overtaking you -no nee."

He spoke sounding like a woman, but he was unmistakably a man.

Lumachina shrank away.

"H, Holy Knight Geibalt....."

"Looks like we meet again -wa ne, Lumachina? Could you just hurry up and die already? Since I'll be sending you to your beloved Kami-sama's side, I would like it if you didn't hold back -waa."

Rem came forward so as to protect Lumachina.

".....You are the Holy Knight that attacked us on the ninth floor, aren't you. I will not let you lay a hand on Lumachina!"

"That's right!"

Shera also nocked an arrow on her bow.

Geibalt prepared his sword with one hand.

"N fu fu.....I've seen that Elf's thing -waa. An arrow that causes 《Petrify》, that's a bit bad -wa nee. But, you're no match for me, you know?"

He fired a crystal.

It was a Summoned Beast.

A countless number of small flying insects came flying out. They were 《Fire Bees》.

The fighting strength of them individually wasn't high, but their affinity with

Shera's weapon was the worst. Even if she were to shoot at the swarm, it would only take down several of them.

It was the same for Rem's Summoned Beasts. She hadn't made a contract with a Summoned Beast that possessed an area attack.

"Kuh.....In that case, we just have to defeat the Summoner! 《Aslau》!!"

She also threw out a crystal.

What was summoned was a gigantic three horned bull.

However, this alone probably wouldn't work on a Holy Knight. She knew that. It was because it was easily crushed by a different Holy Knight called Sadraa in the past.

《Aslau》's ability would be a match for a level 40 Warrior, but the Holy Knights' levels were around 100. It would not be able to win against him alone.

Rem called forth even more Summoned Beasts.

"《Rock Wan》, as well as 《Dragonfly》, come out!"

《Rock Wan》 was a level 25 Earth attribute wolf. It was plain, but its bite was powerful and its charge attack was fast.

And then, 《Dragonfly》 had a flashy name, but in other words, it was a gigantic dragonfly. It was level 20 and of the Wind attribute. It was insufficient in terms of offense and defense, but it could fly and its movements were really fast.

Having summoned three of them at once, the MP burden staggering.

Rem wiped the sweat from her forehead and ordered them.

"Summoned Beasts, go forth! Shera, do it now!"

"Un!"

She had the three high speed Summoned Beasts charge at the Holy Knight. On top of that, the real attack was Shera's bow.

He shouldn't be able to cope with all of that with a single sword.

Geibalt curved his rouged lips.

"Ahan, the desperate faces of weak women.....It let's me bask in a sense of superiority -waa. I • can't • get • enough • of • it!"

The enemy summoned even more.

What appeared was a green vine. Red roses bloomed, and concealed his figure.

It repelled both Rem's Summoned Beasts and Shera's arrow.

"Wha!?"

"What's going on!?"

Geibalt expressed a smile full of pride, and acted flirtatiously.

"Fufufu, this is a rare Summoned Beast—a 《Rose Prison》, you know? Although I cannot move around, your attacks won't get through -wa. By becoming a spectator here, all that's left is for my little 《Fire Bees》 to take care of you."

Summoned Beasts whose individual fighting strength was low but formed a swarm, and an unmoving Summoned Beast that specializes in defense—Even though each one clearly had their faults, when put together, there was no weak spot.

—Strong!

Rem gritted her teeth.

It was because she was a Summoner as well, she keenly felt the difference in their strength.

".....Holy Knight, despite having that much power, why did you choose such a vicious path!?"

"Fufufu.....Isn't it the other way around? Why would you live foolishly honest even though you have power? I don't get the meaning to that. Now then, the talking ends here—I'll kill you all!"

The swarm of 《Fire Bees》 plunged in.

Rem put herself on guard, but she couldn't come up with a means of opposing them.

At that time, a wind blew.

Strong.

Due to the sudden gust, the Summoned Beast Bees were blown away. They hit the ground, and turned back into a crystal.

"My 《Fire Bees》!?"

Geibalt raised his voice.

—Wind attribute magic!?

By some chance, could it be Diablo!? That hope of Rem's, was quickly crushed.

The source of the strong wind that seemed like it could send even a person flying was due to something with a large build descending from the sky.

With the sky as the backlight, its silhouette could be seen.

Similarly looking at the sky, Shera's eyes went wide open.

"What? Eh.....A Dragon?"

Lined with black scales.

From its head that grew a lot of horns, to the tip of its hard looking tail, it was probably about 30 meters.

Rem's lips trembled.

".....A Large.....Black Dragon."

There were many varieties that were called "Dragon", and there were some classified as Demonic Beasts, as well as those that were not.

Black Dragons were not Demonic Beasts (their corpses did not vanish when defeated) and were generally classified as wild animals.

However, there were many that were treated as a third tribe that was neither the people of the Races nor Demonic Beings—they were treated as the Dragon Tribe.

As for why, they.....

[I shall equally bestow death upon the small ones that invade my land!]

A voice resounded within their heads.

It was telepathy.

Although they cannot pronounce words, they understand human speech. Not knowing how they learned it, they are said to have a good command of human speech.

Shera started trembling.

"Wh-wh-what do we do, Rem!?"

It seems that the one that made the twelfth underground floor its stronghold wasn't the 《Death Dancer》, but the 《Large Black Dragon》.

"Kuh.....If you value your life, immediately running away would be the wise thing to do. However....."

If they don't break through here, they won't obtain the treasured article that will dispel the Marked Death Disease.

"Looks like we have no choice but to fight, right!?"

Gritting her teeth, Shera readied her bow.

She fired an arrow.

Her arrow broke the Dragon's scale.

However, 《Petrification》 didn't occur.

Shera's eyes went round.

"Why.....!?"

[Hou, to think that I would feel the Demon King's power from a small one's

arms, how interesting. However, it is not enough to get through to me.]

Rem wiped the sweat from her forehead.

".....Most likely, you can't get through the Dragon's Magic Resistance with the magic power that Krum bestowed on your weapon."

Dragons were ranked by their size. When it came to the Large-class, it was the king of Dragons in this region.

With the magical power that Krum bestowed for the sake of self-protection, it was only natural that it wouldn't bring it down.

The Dragon that descended from the sky slowly landed.

[O small ones! If you oppose me, then wield that strength of yours! You shall sink into despair, until you accept death!]

Around the center of the cave, the Holy Knight was there.

"Don't joke around with me -wa yoo!"

He called off the summoning of the 《Rose Prison》, and hurriedly tried to run away from being close to the Dragon. He evacuated to close to the wall.

"C, could you wait a second! I'll leave immediately -wa! To begin with, I have no interest in the dungeon! Those girls that are around the entrance were just in my way -nano yoo!"

The Dragon's gigantic eyeball turned towards the Holy Knight.

[If you will not oppose me.....Then you shall be slaughtered by this single attack!]

Rem remembered a description from a book.

Black Dragons use Acid Breath. In other words, it was acid. Whether it was a sword or armor, even if it was a person, it would melt it.

The Holy Knight threw out new crystal.

"TSK! Don't go and get carried away -wa yo, you lizard bastard!! I'll turn you into grilled lizard with this -wa! Come forth, 《Ifrit》!!"

Rem received a shock. It was a Summoned Beast of the highest grade that she had only learned of by hearsay and had actually never seen herself.

She felt that there were large problems with the personalities of the Holy Knights, but their abilities were without mistake close to the limits of the Races.

That crystal that shined in a rainbow color broke.

A pillar of flames stretched out to the heavens.

It felt like they would be blown away by the hot winds.

It was a Majin of bright red flames. It looked as if lava had taken a human form. In terms of height, there wasn't much of a difference from the Dragon. The area under its feet melted due to the heat.

Rem held her hands up, and protected her face from the blowing heat.

".....Kuh.....That Holy Knight.....So he was hiding a trump card like this."

If he summoned Ifrit from the beginning, Rem's group would have been killed in an instant.

Why didn't he use it?

The reason was simple.

Geibalt placed a hand on his own chest, and was breathing roughly and repeatedly wheezed. It seemed that even for a person as strong as him, summoning Ifrit had a burden that wasn't normal.

Shera looked at the two of them, and was all shaken up.

"Uwaawaa.....Wh, which one should I be rooting for, Rem!?"

".....The Large Black Dragon intends to kill us. If Ifrit is defeated, then there is no mistake that our turn will be next."

"That's true! Then, for right now, we should root for that Holy Knight person, right!?"

".....However, if Ifrit remains, it will also be our turn next."

"Hii!?"

".....If it's either a draw, or something close to that, then it will be convenient for us. Let's assist the one that is at the disadvantage."

Rem held a crystal in her hand, and waited for a chance to take advantage of. Shera nodded.

"L, let's do our best!"

Lumachina put both of her hands together.

"Kami-sama.....I beg of you, please protect us....."

Part 4

Ifrit started the fight.

During the time a Summoned Beast was materialized, the Summoner's MP would continue to be consumed the whole time. He would be at the disadvantage if it turned into a drawn out battle.

Because of that, the Holy Knight did not wait-and-see, and had Ifrit plunge in. The Dragon Tribe was not only strong, but their knowledge was also deep and vast. According to one theory, it's said that a dragon child inherits the memories of the parent.

[O small one, wield that power to your heart's content.]

"OOOOOOOOO————!!"

The Summoned Beast Ifrit struck at it, or it pretended to, and grabbed the Dragon's horns.

"Jieah!!"

Simultaneous with its shout, lava gushed out from the center of its body.

It poured on scorching heat from point-blank range.

So that was Ifrit's special action.

The air oscillated. A bit of time was needed to realise that it was the Dragon's scream.

Rem put strength into the hand that gripped the crystal.

—Is the strongest Summoned Beast really the stronger one? In that case, this is a chance to defeat the Holy Knight that is currently focused on the summoning of Ifrit!

However, if they were impatient and started a fight with him while the Dragon was still going strong, then they would really lose their lives. She needed to carefully probe the conditions of both sides.....

After receiving the attack just now, just how much damage did the Large Black Dragon take.

It's black scales burned.

It looked as if it was given a considerable amount of damage.

Geibalt shouted.

"Not yet! More, more, attack it more, 《Ifrit》!!"

The Summoned Beast that had converted a majority of its body into lava returned to the Humanoid form that it had when it had first appeared. It threw a fist at the Dragon.

Ifrit did not have its body of scorching heat as its only weapon. It seemed that

even its simple offensive ability was uncommon.

The Dragon's large build that had an overall length of 30 meters floated up a bit.

It made a barrage of those.

Pushing it to the cave's wall, it continued to punch it.

Not knowing how many attacks were made, time passed—

Ifrit made its second time doing its special action.

It once again converted its whole body into lava, and gushed it out towards the Dragon's body.

"Jieah!!"

—Did that decide it!?

Rem held the crystal aloft.

Shera gulped.

"No way....."

At that mutter, Rem gave up on summoning. At the place that the meaning of her words was meant for—

[Are you done, small one? Have you had enough despair? In that case, die.]

The Dragon that continued to be struck without resisting swung its forelimb. Its claws that went left to right mowed down Ifrit who had returned to its original Humanoid form.

The upper half of its body was smashed and fell.

Rem raised a voice that sounded like a scream.

"That can't be!?"

Ifrit was a Summoned Beast that was close to having an indefinite form. Even if it lost its form, it would return to its original form. How it had not yet turned into a crystal was proof that it wasn't defeated.

Slowly, Ifrit's form was restored.

Turning towards it, the Dragon opened its gigantic mouth.

A chill ran down Rem's spine.

—Acid Breath!?

Their own location might subtly be within the effective range of it. Rem grabbed the hand of the girl that was beside her.

"Please run, Lumachina!"

"Y, yes!"

"Shera, you too!"

"I know!"

They got away from in front of the door.

Immediately following that, a black mist spewed out from the Large Black Dragon's mouth.

ifrit received a direct hit at point-blank range.

Jyuwaa The lava converted into liquid. It was different from the form changing that was overflowing with vitality up until then. It turned into a liquid state and spilled over onto the ground.

Its figure disappeared.

A blackened crystal tumbled onto the ground.

Geibalt shouted in agony.

"AAAAAAAHHH!? N, no way.....It's a lie! My! That was my trump card, you know!? The strongest! Even though it was the strongest Summoned Beast!?"
[That is for the limits of the people of the Races.]

There was a reverberation that sounded like it was pitying him.

At the same time the telepathy ended, the Dragon swung its gigantic tail.

The ground, which had completely become soft due to Ifrit's heat and the acid of the Acid Breath, was gouged out. The tip of its tail grazed Geibalt.

"Gah.....!?"

His sword was blown away.

Along with his right hand that was holding it.

Blood soaked the ground.

"Die.....I'm going to die....."

The ground underneath Geibalt crumbled. What appeared was a 《Trap Worm》.
Rem kept her eyes open.

She thought that it was strange. From what she had heard, the Holy Knight Geibalt—Diablo should have defeated him with powerful magic that could turn the whole area into an empty lot. Why was he alive?

It seems that he utilized the Trap Worm.

That was a Summoned Beast that moves underground, and swallows up people. Normally, it was used to drop enemies into traps. However, this meant that Geibalt used it as a means of an emergency escape.

What a flexible idea!

Without a doubt, he was the strongest Summoner among the ones that Rem had ever met.

However, he could not win against the Large Black Dragon.

He might have been given a bit of damage, but there wasn't even an opening that Rem and the others could cut into.

The Dragon's tail once again gouged the ground.

[I will not let you escape!]

Along the the Trap Worm, Geibalt was blown away.

"Gahah.....!?"

He crashed into the wall, and fell onto the ground. He went limp and wasn't moving.

It looked like a fatal hit.

—To think that the difference was this big!

Suddenly, Lumachina, who was running together with her to escape, turned around. He headed towards the collapsed Geibalt.

Rem was dumbfounded.

"Wha, what're you doing!?"

In a hurry, she chased after her. Shera also followed along.

"This is bad, this is totally bad, you know!? The Dragon, it's looking this way! It's looking you know!?"

"I know that!"

However, the taking this sort of action was probably what made up the girl called Lumachina. It was incomprehensible to an Adventurer like Rem.

Lumachina crouched down beside Geibalt.

"Are you alive!?"

"Gofuh.....Uu.....wha.....? Luma.....china.....?"

"Please hang in there! Right now, I will use Healing!"

"Fu, fufu.....Looks like I put on the wrong shoes.....-wa ne.....How could I, do such a thing....."

Every time he talked, blood spilled out from the edge of his mouth. Maybe his internal organs were crushed. Even the *hyu— hyu—* sound of his breathing was strange.

Lumachina prayed.

"O great God in heaven, hear my plea for aid. Heal the dreadful injuries that

torment this one. Bestow magnanimous mercy upon this one's sins, and allow him to live....."

".....Even though I.....intended to kill you.....earn a whole bunch of money..... buy a first-class dress, and have a hunk serve me."

"Save him, forgive him."

"Are you stupid? After.....that lizard bastard.....I plan, on killing you.....you know? Even now. If I had a hand, I would kill you -wa."

Geibalt had already lost both of his arms.

Not just that, even both of his legs were bent in strange directions. It was a wonder that he was still alive and even had consciousness. It was thought that it was thanks to his high level and his first-class armor.

Lumachina continued to pray.

"Yes, you have dyed your hands in corruption. It is for this reason that you must reflect on your actions and atone for them. It is not yet time for you to head to Kami-sama's side. Please live."

".....Stop it.....I, won't do something.....like atone, gohoh!"

A large amount of blood dyed his blue armor red.

"Please! Kami-sama!"

"Kuh.....It's impossible.....Even Kami-sama, has forsaken me -wa.....A woman, like me is....."

"Forgive him. Forgive him."

Lumachina put both of her hands together in front of her chest, and tightly grasped her holy symbol. That holy symbol started to shine white.

Before long, the radiance wrapped up even Geibalt's body.

He clenched his teeth.

"It, it's vanishing.....the pain is.....Stop.....Stop it.....Have you thought, about how much it is that I have done!?"

"Even so, Kami-sama has forgiven you."

"At this late point.....!!"

Lumachina tightly grasped Geibalt's hand.

Both of his arms that should have been lost appeared before anyone knew it.

Rem opened her eyes wide.

—Is this the power of the High Chief Priest's miracles!?

She had heard rumors of the holy woman that was blessed with talent that was

rare even in history, and she had chances to see her miracles with her own eyes up until now but.....to think that it would go this far. It was astonishing.

Lumachina smiled.

"It will definitely be alright. As long as a person has life, even if it is at their last moment, as long as they repent—they shall be forgiven by Kami-sama."

Going *guh*, Geibalt closed his eyelids.

From the ends of his tightly shut eyes, transparent drops spilled out and fell.

"I see.....So Kami-sama, is a good man."

The sound of his breathing returned to normal.

Even though he was in a state where him just being alive was a wonder, it looked as if he had gotten tired and simply fell asleep.

Lumachina's power of miracles was wonderful.

However, even so—

It did not change the fact that they were in the worst situation.

Rem looked up at the Dragon.

".....We have no intention to fight. Could you please turn a blind eye to us?"

[Hou, an Elf with a bow bestowed upon her by the Demon King, and a Human blessed with a single wing by God. How interesting. Moreover, you, are a vessel?]

".....Eh? Do you know about me?"

[The Demon King's soul.....it is there.]

".....In the past, that was the case. But, it should have already been taken out."

[Small one, so you do not even understand yourself. It is faint, but some remains.]

"!? That's why....."

The Demon King Krebskrum's soul was sealed inside of Rem. The Demon King would revive either through her death, or through a certain ritual.

She believed in Diablo and cooperated in the revival ceremony. In order to take the Demon King out of her, and defeat it.

However, the revived Demon King Krebskrum had lost its memories, and was a biscuit loving little girl that wouldn't kill the Races.

Rem placed her hand on her own stomach.

—Is it because the Demon King's soul remains in here!?

[I know of the world. Know of the truth. Know of heaven and earth. As one with

blood of a dragon, that is only natural. We have ceaselessly inherited knowledge from the beginning of the world. And then, we shall see the end of the world with our own eyes.]

".....If you possess that much wisdom, could you please sympathize with our situation? I beg of you, please turn a blind eye to us."

To think that the Demon King's soul was remaining within herself! The number of reasons why they couldn't die here increased.

[The lives of you small ones, are only but an instant.]

".....Compared to the Dragon Tribe, that may be true."

[In that case, even if it were to end now, it would be nothing more than a small difference.]

"!?"

[A somewhat strong wind was blown. That is simply all.....Grass with a slightly different color was stepped on. That is simply all.....Within my eternal time, you are nothing but small trifles not worth paying attention to.]

"No way!"

Making a *hyuo* sound, the Large Black Dragon inhaled the atmosphere.

—An Acid Breath is coming!?

They no longer had any means of escaping from the effective range.

Making a Summoned Beast a shield.....

That was impossible.

Even the strongest Summoned Beast Ifrit was taken out in a single hit. The Summoned Beasts that Rem had contracted surely wouldn't even become a shield.

Its gigantic mouth spat out a black mist.

From the side, a spear of light—pierced through the Dragon's jaw.

Its head was turned to an unexpected direction, and its Acid Breath was sprayed onto the wall. The rock melted into a muddy mess.

[An injury upon me.....!? Who was it!?]

Rem and the others looked at the direction that the spear of light came flying from.

The entrance door was opened.

What was there, although his attire and weapon were changed, there was no way they could mistake him for someone else. The figure of the person they

relied on the most was there.

Preparing the eerie War Scythe, the man fearlessly smiled.

"Fu.....A mere, level 140 monster, is claiming to be an all-knowing god? You sure know how to make me laugh, you small fry."

Rem did not stop her tears from flooding out.

"Diablo.....!!"

Part 5

Inside of his head, a deep voice resounded.

[Small one! For you to attack me despite having so few magic spells you can use.....You have resolved to abandon your short life, haven't you!?]

It was the Large Black Dragon's telepathy.

Diablo was surprised in his mind.

—Amazing! So telepathy is heard like this. It's like the auditory hallucinations I heard when I stayed up for five nights for an event.

Putting that aside.....

Although he had tried provoking it, his current condition was the worst.

First of all, he had no equipment. Both his armor and his weapons, they were close to nothing. Moreover, both his HP and his MP were drastically cut down. Fighting against a level 140 monster like this, he was subtly at a disadvantage.....

Diablo continued to glare at the Dragon.

—That is something that shouldn't be said.

It was a miracle that Rem and the others were able to stay alive. When he heard the sounds of battle, he had a feeling that was close to despair.

The 《Large Black Dragon》 deployed on the twelfth underground floor, on top of being level 140, its personality setting was 《Super Aggressive》.

Whenever it discovered Adventurers, it would always kill them with all of its might.

It was a monster where coincidental events such as being lucky enough to come by when it was sleeping, or it just happening to not feel like fighting did not happen.

With the levels of Rem and the others, it was totally possible for them to have been annihilated with the Dragon's first attack.

Since there was some pretty loud sounds of battle, could it be that there is someone else other than those three fighting against it? He didn't know who it was, but since he was able to make it in time thanks to them, he needed to thank them.

From Diablo's spot, he was unable to see the figure of the one that was collapsed at Lumachina's side.

From the shadow of the door that was behind him, Horun peeked inside.

"Fue~, Da, Danna.....It's a Dragon -ssu! This, is my first time seeing a Dragon -ssu!"

"If you go into the depths of the Demon King territory, they aren't all that rare. They just have a bit more skills than Demonic Beasts."

"That is, awful -ssu!"

"Do not panic. If you think it is dangerous, then close the door. I shall call you once it is over. Its Acid Breath will have an effect even if you have taken cover. Just breathing in the air mixed with acid will burn your lungs."

"Hii!?"

Just as he had instructed, Horun closed the door.

—Well, even I would be in danger if I got hit by it.

Diablo added that in his mind.

Chemical Elemental Magicians which specialized in firepower were weak against wide scope attacks. If it was magic, then he would be able to reflect it with the 《Demon King's Ring》, but a breath was an attribute attack.

Against this sort of opponent, Diablo's way of fighting was decided.

"Fu.....I am in a bit of a hurry. I have no intention of letting you perform a sideshow.....You underling of the Dragon Tribe."

[Hou, so you insult me. In that case, just as you desire, I shall give you death.]

It was surprising that it responded to his provocation.

It was because all of the monsters deployed on the other floors acted as according to their settings. There were also cases where they were subtly

different—Like getting excited by Shera's singing.

Maybe because the Dragon Tribe can speak words, it was a reaction atypical of an AI.

Diablo turned the War Scythe towards it.

"O light, o light gather. Crawl out from the darkness to the one that goes against divine providence—"

[Learn of your own arrogance, small one!]

The Dragon flapped its wings, floated up a bit, and fast approached this way. It came striking with its gigantic claws.

Since the current Diablo did not have the 《Staff of Tenma》's Charge shortening, his firing of magic was slower than usual.

—Make it in time, make it in time, it should make it in time! Yosh!

"《Hercules Lance》!!"

A spear of light that was about five meters long was created in Diablo's hand, and then he jumped.

He met with the Dragon that was plunging in at him.

With that large build, it was impossible to evade.

The enemy's Magic Resistance value was high, but his own level was higher. It was possible to offset that with added magical power. He had already confirmed that damage went through with the attack from before.

The Light attribute, level 120 magic 《Hercules Lance》—It was a spear of light, but it pierced through the Large Black Dragon's torso.

The air shook.

Diablo curved the ends of his lips.

"Fu.....So your screams aren't done through telepathy."

[What incredible, magical power.....To think that it would penetrate my scales so easily.....!?]

"Certainly, I am strong. However, couldn't it be that you are too weak? You should have been a bit stronger though?"

The monsters deployed in this dungeon were right at the level that Diablo set them at.

There wasn't anything like them being weaker than they were in the game because they did not fight on a regular basis like in the other regions.

In that case, the Large Black Dragon should have been much stronger.

Threatening it with 《Hercules Lance》, it would create an opening where he would hit it with the real attack. That was the plan but.....

With the current Diablo's equipment, the fact that a large amount of damage got through to it was a miscalculation.

He arrived at a certain possibility.

—By some chance, have I risen up from level 150?

Even while he was thinking that, due to the habits that were dyed deeply into him from the game, there wasn't even a small deviation in the timing of his taking his place and the activation of the magic.

While maintaining an angle where Rem and the others won't get dragged in, he threw the Light attribute magic at it. Since Black Dragons were of the Darkness attribute, the damage was approximately five times more than normal.

Rem's voice quivered from having so much deep emotion.

".....You are amazing, Diablo."

Shera and Lumachina embraced each other.

"He did it! He really did it!"

".....Kami-sama.....As I thought, you have come to protect us."

Tears rose up in those eyes.

The Dragon's scales broke, and dark brown blood scattered about.

[Impossible.....Impossible.....A dragon.....being overwhelmed.....by a small one, by a person of the Races.....That.....shouldn't.....If he had joined with conspirators, it would be better.....but all alone.....!?]

"Kukuku, do you still not understand? The one you are fighting, is not a person of the Races!"

[Wh, at.....?]

"My name is Diablo! I am a Demon King that has come from another world!"

[Ugh!? Th, that name is.....Diablo? You say? I know of it.....I.....In the past, by that person, certainly.....]

"Hou?"

He was surprised.

By some chance, could it be that this Dragon possesses memories of being deployed by Diablo? Memories of the game?

"You.....Do you have memory of having heard of these words before?"

"MMORPG Cross Reverie".

[Gukuh!! I, I do not want.....to die.....]

"Mu"

When Diablo asked that, the 《Thunder Axe》 that he fired just before he asked took off one of the Dragon's wings at almost the same time.

The opponent threw its head back, and it started to unsteadily step back.

[.....Cannot die.....I.....must not.....die, just yet.]

"Hmph.....Not long ago, did you not say “even if it were to end now, it would be nothing more than a small difference” sounding all self-important?"

[One has yet, to be born.....I have not.....left behind.....one.....to succeed my memories.....]

"You....."

Diablo lowered his War Scythe.

He did not pursue the Dragon that turned its back towards him and ran away.

He breathed a sigh.

—I see. You're also, a virgin huh.

Since the Dragon Tribe are few in numbers, it doesn't seem like it will meet with one—he ended up thinking something like that.

While soaking the ground with dark brown blood, the Dragon escaped further into the cave.

It could no longer fly after all.

Ahead of where it was headed, there stood a single young lady.

Diablo became flustered.

"Wha!? Crap....."

He didn't know who she was, but he was late in noticing her.

The Large Black Dragon turned bloodshot eyes towards the young lady that was loitering there as if to stand in its way.

[Do not, hinder me! I.....cannot die just yet! I cannot die!]

The young lady brushed up her purple hair.

That expression of hers, there wasn't even a small trace of her feeling shaken.

"Who, gave you permission to run away? You are the guardian of the twelfth floor.....To go against the Master's command, that is worthy of certain death."

Diablo opened his eyes wide. He recognized that figure.

—Could it be, that young lady is!?

The Dragon threatened her.

[Get out of the way! If you hinder me, I shall extinguish you!!]

Black mist leaked out from the holes that opened up in its throat and torso. Some of its power had been reduced, but its Acid Breath was fired towards the young lady.

The young lady brandished the tool that she held in her hands. It was a double-headed sword where there were blades on both ends of the handle. They were chainsaws that possessed blades of shining beams. It was a weapon whose outward appearance deviated from anything in this other world that had a world appearance of the European Middle Ages.

"I suppose, I shall start cleaning."

Right before the Acid Breath could touch the young lady, it rapidly vanished. The mist of acid did not reach her.

The Dragon howled.

[You mere.....You mere cleaning tool!]

"I see, so you call this Rose a "tool". Is that so.....The reasons to dispose of you have increased. Even though the only allowed to treat me as a tool is the Master."

The young lady that called herself Rose thrust her weapon into the ground. The Dragon that had its breath defended against held its gigantic claws aloft. [You should regret having opposed me at all! You doll!]

Rose, who hadn't changed her facial expression at all, bit down on her back teeth.

"Do not.....call me a doll!!"

In a space where nothing should have been there, a gigantic sword suddenly appeared. It was a double-headed sword that looked like an SF (science fiction) version of what the young lady held in her hands.

The hand that gripped the handle was made of metal. It was a hand that looked like armor, but hinges could be seen in the joints.

Pipes that looked like arteries ran through it, and characters and symbols that looked like the ones used in magic formations were engraved on them. Those characters and symbols radiated from the arm to the fingertips. It were as if energy was being sent in.

The mechanical hand moved. With the gigantic double-headed sword, it

stopped the Dragon's claws.

And just like that, it pushed it back.

[Oh, oh, oh.....!~]

"Fufu.....fufufu.....Ahahaha! To challenge this Rose to a contest of strength, how foolish of a lizard are you!?"

The gigantic machine hand that floated behind her was a part of her.

Breaking the Dragon's claws, it severed its forelimb that was covered in hard scales.

A large amount of blood soaked the ground.

Once again, a scream made the cavern shake.

[To be able.....to inflict.....an injury of this level, onto me.....]

"Despite boasting about them, they are some unexpectedly soft scales. Even though Rose's attack starts from here."

[Wh, at.....!~]

"Now then! Atone for the sin that you committed, with your death!

《Krios》[\[1\]](#)!!"

The gigantic hand that stretched out from behind her made a side swipe with a speed that one would not expect from its size. It was fast enough that it was even difficult to chase after the weapon's tip with one's eyes.

A wind sounded.

At the same time, scales broke, flesh was ripped apart, bones were severed, and blood scattered about.

The Large Black Dragon's head and torso were divided into separate parts.

[Guoh]

".....Shut up."

As a finisher, she stabbed the head that fell with her sword.

With that, the telepathy from the Dragon could no longer be heard.

Rose turned her gaze towards Rem and the others.

"You were still here? Guarding the twelfth underground floor is not my duty, but I need to clean this place up....."

Her emerald eyes gazed at Diablo.

As he thought, he recognized that figure of hers.

When he created the dungeon in the MMORPG Cross Reverie, Diablo stationed a certain piece of furniture in the lowest floor, the thirteenth floor 《The Demon

King's Room》.

Among the furniture that could be bought with in-game currency, there was the 《Magimatic Maid》^[2]. Its outward appearance looked like that of a person, but it was an automata that moved by means of magic—that was the setting for it. According to the setting, its fighting strength was high, and it had various options, but its implementation in the game did not progress.

Since it was only furniture that loitered around with a cleaner in hand, it was called a “roooba” on walkthrough sites. Recalling when that was introduced, Diablo found it to be nostalgic.

"Rose, do you, have memories of that time?"

".....Mas.....ter?"

"My name is Diablo.....No, I suppose for you, it would be better to say that it is @Diablo-13."

"!!"

Rose was overcome with surprise and stood stock still.

Her double-headed sword fell from her hands. Dropping to the floor, a *ko—n* sound resounded.

The gigantic machine hand that was at her back vanished. Was it an existence similar to the Summoned Beasts of this world?

Since it was not implemented in the game although it was in the setting, he didn't really know. It was certain that its strength wasn't normal though. It was probably fine to think that she no longer had any fighting spirit.

Diablo approached her.

"I have now returned, Rose."

Her shoulders quivered, and both of her eyes went wide open. Large transparent drops spilled out from those eyes, and fell down along her well-shaped cheeks.

Her voice faintly trembled.

"W.....Welcome back.....My Master."

Translator's Notes:

^[1] Greek name for the constellation Aries.

^[2] Kind of like automatic, but with magic.

Chapter 5: Trying Out Renewing Equipment

Part 1

The Thirteenth Underground Floor—

[The Demon King's Room]

Diablo surveyed the surroundings with a feeling of nostalgia.

"Umu."

Rem grimaced.

".....It is disgusting. It feels as if we have entered the internal organs of a large creature."

"That's so true."

Shera also looked frightened.

Horun didn't try to separate herself from Rem and the others. Right now, she had a cloth wrapped around her body. It was something that carried on her person for when she went to sleep.

Since Diablo was naked from the waist up and Horun was completely naked, they had a hard time explaining the circumstances.

Moreover, they were surprised by the fact that Horun was actually a girl.....

If not for the fact that the place was the innermost area of the dungeon and that they were in a hurry to cure Lumachina's Marked Death Disease, they might have asked a barrage of questions about this and that.

Since Lumachina had performed a big miracle, she was considerably exhausted, and was borrowing Shera's shoulder to walk.

There is a limit to being good-natured. It seemed that she saved the Holy Knight Geibalt that was targeting her own life from his serious injuries as he was on the verge of dying.

That Geibalt, he vanished while everyone was fixed on the fight between Rose and the Dragon.

—Was that scoundrel reformed?

There was the possibility that he would aim for Lumachina's life once more.

There was probably a need to be vigilant.

The one that was at the lead and guiding them was Rose.

She sweetly smiled at Rem and the others.

"Just now, I feel like I heard words that seemed to be criticizing Master's tastes but.....that couldn't be the case, could it?"

".....By that "Master", do you mean Diablo?"

"Of course."

".....This place, is Diablo's taste?"

Rem made a puzzled face.

So it was difficult to keep it hidden forever.

However, how should he explain it? If he could come up with a good explanation, he would have said it long ago.

Rose opened her mouth.

"This dungeon was once in a different place. It seems that due to some sort of power, it was transferred to this space."

".....Is that sort of thing possible?"

"It is surely possible, as it has actually occurred after all. And so, when we existed in that different place, the one that created this dungeon was Master."

"Eh!?"

Rem and the others looked over at Diablo.

A cold sweat was being shed along his spine. Making a triumphant look over capturing his own created dungeon, it was kind of embarrassing.

Were they exasperated with him? Would they ridicule him? Would he be thought of as an idol otaku?

Rem nodded with a serious expression.

".....I see.....So that is why you were well-informed about the mechanisms. I understand now."

"This dungeon, Diablo, you created it!? That's ama—zing!!"

Shera's eyes sparkled.

These were unexpected reactions.

Horun tilted her head.

"B, but, it seemed like you were lost earlier.....?"

—A sharp retort has come!

While Diablo kept a calm guise, his heart was racing.

Rose answered.

"What Master had directed was interior design and mechanism of each floor. It is only natural that he would not know the small branching paths. To begin with, normally, I should have come out before the gate, and brought him to the lowest floor by means of a transfer....."

She hung her head down.

She clenched her teeth.

".....Even though the Master had returned, to not be able to notice that.....This Rose is a good-for-nothing. By all means, please punish me until you are satisfied."

"Do not mind it."

Diablo replied large heartedly.

This other world was different from the MMORPG Cross Reverie. Since the login screen and menu items weren't displayed, there was no means to start from the personal space.

Rose twisted and turned her body.

"How incredibly kind! However, it is fine. If it would soothe Master's anger, whether you pluck of an arm, or split my head, Rose would.....Rose would....."

Rather, she was expressing a look of ecstasy.

Her breathing is rough.

Diablo was taken aback, but since wincing from a maid's speech and conduct wasn't Demon King-like, he feigned composure and shrugged his shoulders.

"I believe I told you to not mind it."

"Y, yes, I am terribly sorry. Give corporal punishment to this Rose as you like!"

—Does she want to receive punishment no matter what!?

Rem turned a doubtful gaze towards him.

"Um, Diablo.....What sort of relationship would you have with this person? I am not trying to pry though."

She was subtly cold.

And then, while he was thinking about how he should reply, Rose extended her index finger and replied to her.

"Ufufufu.....For that, naturally everything of this Rose exists for the sake of servicing Master. From these fingers, to every corner of this body, to even every strand of hair"

".....I have understood that your loyalty is full of vim and vigor. However, I

asked that question to Diablo."

He thought that Rem's emotional strength to let her compete with Rose without any hesitation despite having seen the battle earlier was incredible. The two of them glared at each other.

Rose muttered.

"Even though I would have chopped you to pieces with 《Asterismos》^[1] about this time if you weren't Master's guest....."

".....You are Diablo's servant, and I am Diablo's companion. You understand which one of us has the higher rank, don't you?"

"Tsk"

The 《Asterismos》 that Rose mentioned was about the gigantic double-headed sword from earlier.

Her swordsmanship possessed twelve kinds of attacks that follow the zodiac signs—that was the setting for her, but it wasn't implemented in the game. To think that it was enough to defeat a Large Black Dragon.

If her battle abilities were implemented, the game balance in terms of dungeon capturing probably would have had an upheaval.

Suddenly, he remembered how Rem and Shera did nothing but fight at first. They do quarrel even now, but they were nothing but trivial messing around. Diablo stepped in between Rem and Rose as they glared at each other and split them apart.

"Give it a rest already. Right now, there are more important things than old tales. Rose, does my treasury exist here?"

Since her explanation was pretty good, he went along with it.

It seemed like Rem and the others that various explanations were lacking and wanted to ask some questions, but they didn't interrupt him. It was because they understood what Diablo was prioritizing.

They needed to dispel Lumachina's Marked Death Disease. If that item wasn't here, there was no meaning to them having come here.

Rose pointed to the interior.

"Of course. The protection of the treasury is perfect. Right this way."

Translator's Notes:

^[1] Greek word for constellation.

Part 2

Beyond the door that was back behind the throne, there was a vast space that seemed like it was infinite.

It was utterly unbelievable that something like this was beneath the desert. It seemed that it was either similar to the pouch that Diablo possessed and was magically connected to a different place, or maybe the space itself was created with magic.

Countless stone pedestals were lined up. Enough to think that they continued on forever.

Various articles were placed on top of the pedestals.

Rem narrowed her eyes.

".....It's almost like a cemetery."

"Diablo, is this also something that you created?"

Being asked that, he shook his head side to side.

"I only indicated the things that I required, and had them brought to me. In the other world that is."

"Wah—, it's like you were a king."

"Naturally. I am a Demon King after all."

That was how it was in the game, and he only had to choose the necessary items from the item lists, but even if he were to explain it with that, they probably wouldn't understand.

Gazing at the countless articles, Diablo had an extraordinary feeling.

A sorting function for type and rarity.....He guessed that there was no way there would be something like that.

"Uumu....."

"What would you be searching for, Master?"

"The 《White Cow Statue》."

It was a reward for a limited-time event, and its classification was 《Important Item》.

Rose nodded.

"In that case, it is this way."

—Ooh, so you memorized it! Rose, so capable! I'm sorry for thinking "So you're

a roooba” when I deployed you in the game!

Concealing his internal gratitude, Diablo nodded like a Demon King.

"I allow it, guide us there."

"Certainly, My Master"

Courteously bowing, Rose started to walk.

Before long, he spotted something that he recognized sitting on top of a pedestal.

It was the statue of a white calf.

It was dimly and weakly shining.

He almost broke into a run for it on reflex but.....

—No, no, that wouldn't be Demon King-like. Calm down.

Diablo was doing a Demon King role play. It was because if he didn't do that and make up his character, it would be impossible for him to converse with other people. Whenever he tried to talk as his original self, he would become unable to say anything else but things like "uh—" and "ah—". The unpleasant blunders of the past would rush about through his mind, and normal thoughts would not endure and disappear.

This current self was Demon King Diablo.

His performance was essential.

Finding the treasure that was their goal, and rushing over to it—That sort of thing was totally something a novice Adventurer would do.

He did his best to approach it without changing his stride.

He laughed with the depths of his throat like a Demon King.

"Kukuku.....It sure did take us quite a bit of time."

".....Is this it, Diablo?"

He nodded at Rem's question.

"Umu, it is the 《White Cow Statue》."

Going “This is!”, Rem and the others raised their voices.

Shera and Horun had their eyes sparkling, and Lumachina knelt down and put her hands together.

Rem asked a question.

".....In what way is this used?"

"What, you do not know?"

—Actually, I don't know either.

In the scenario in the MMORPG Cross Reverie, this 《White Cow Statue》 only lit up. The screen would go white and cut the scene short, it was a performance that happened often in the game.

And then, it would stream only into the conversation where he would be thanked by the recovered NPCs.

Lumachina stepped forward.

"Um.....It's vague, but I know how."

"As expected of you. I shall allow it, go and use it."

While making it so that he didn't let out a surprised face, Diablo allowed her to go in front of the stone statue.

Lumachina touched the head of the 《White Cow Statue》.

"I feel it.....Kami-sama's.....warmth....."

She closed her eyes.

He didn't know what sort of things she was thinking inside of her heart.

The stone statue started to shine white.

"Wawa....."

Shera's eyes sparkled and she leaned forward.

Conversely, Rem drew back, and she looked like she was on guard. A frightened Horun hid behind her.

Diablo suppressed his anxiety and gazed at the scene with an air of composure. —I think that it will be alright, but I'm nervous. Will this stone statue exhibit the same effect as it did in the game?

"Nn....."

Lumachina leaked out a sigh.

Her cheeks were flushed, and beads of sweat rose to the surface of her skin.

"Haa.....haa.....nn.....kufuu.....haa.....haa....."

With a twitch, her body quivered. With the hand that wasn't touching the stone statue, she pressed down on her own abdomen.

"Nn.....ku.....hafuu....."

"Are you alright?"

Lumachina nodded at Diablo's question.

"Yes. I felt.....Kami-sama being.....r, right next to me....."

"I see."

So she was feeling that.

A black haze seeped out from Lumachina's body.

"AH, NN"

From the gap of the slit of her skirt, a particularly thick haze spilled out. She spilled out a pained sounding voice.

"It, it's.....hot....."

"Are you alright, Lumachina-chan!?"

Shera rushed over to her, grabbed her skirt and pulled it up.

The Marked Death Disease influenced one's life. This was an emergency, and since it was something like a so-called medical treatment action, it was stranger to think of it as indecent.

Diablo had prepared for the sudden change in situation, and stared at the girls. He gulped down his saliva.

Shera rolled up Lumachina's skirt, and exposed the base of the thigh where the Marked Death Disease nevi had surfaced.

"Ah, it's become a bit fainter."

"Haa.....haa.....yes.....In this stone statue.....Kami-sama's power is.....Nnn"

With a twitch, Lumachina twisted her body.

Looking like she was going to collapse, Shera supported her back.

"Hang in there."

"Y, yes."

"Look, it's become this faint. I'm sure that it will be cured very soon."

Shera stroked near the nevi.

Lumachina reacted with a twitch.

"Afuu.....Th, that place.....has become.....sensitive, so....."

"Wawa.....Sorry."

"But, it might have, become a bit, more comfortable.....maybe."

"Really? If, if it's just this much, does it hurt?"

Shera gently stroked on top of her skin.

Lumachina gasped. As if she had focused her consciousness on those fingers, Lumachina held her breath.

"Kuhah.....nkuh.....haa.....haa.....kufuu....."

"H, how is it, Lumachina-chan?"

"Haa.....When I'm touched by you.....Shera-san, it tingles and feels like I'm going numb....."

"It's kind of similar to pouring magical power into someone."

"It is because.....haa.....I am receiving, Kami-sama's power.....nnu....."

"Un, I can tell, that light is steadily, going inside of you, Lumachina-chan. The weird black stuff is being pushed out."

Shera could see the flow of magical power. Normally, there speech and conduct was lacking in smartness, but she was actually a genius.

Her fingertips stroked up her skin. Every time she did, Lumachina raised a coquettish voice.

"I, I can't, stand anymore....."

Seeming to have lost strength in her knees, Lumachina looked like she would collapse.

Shera hugged her waist and held her in her arms.

"Very soon, Lumachina-chan! With just a bit more, the bad stuff, will disappear! From here on, it'll vanish!"

Shera's white and slender fingers grabbed the inner part of the thigh where the nevi of the Marked Death Disease were located. Putting strength into them and squeezing, her nails pressed onto the skin.

Lumachina bent her spine back.

She raised an especially high-pitched voice.

"AH! NNAHH! NHAAAaAaAa~~~~!!"



Diablo was also able to see it clearly.
A mass of black magical power rushed out from her body as if being driven out

by the white light.

That sinister magical power was sucked in towards the 《White Cow Statue》.

The statue's brilliance gradually decreased.

Was it over?

Lumachina was exhausted.

Throwing down her hands and feet, even Shera who was supporting her looked like she would collapse.

Part 3

Diablo caught the two of them.

"Are you alright?"

"Looks like Lumachina-chan fell asleep. I think it's going to be alright now."

"Su—.....su—....."

Her sleeping breath was calm and gentle. And going by the flow of magical power, he didn't feel any strange parts to it.

"Umu, it would seem that it is over."

"Un! The curse has completely vanished!"

Looking delighted, Shera picked up Lumachina's skirt in her fingers and said that.

Certainly, the inner part of her thighs was clean, pure white, and didn't have a single stain. The dark purple nevi had completely vanished.

The Marked Death Disease was dispelled.

How joyous. Since there were many hardships, he could really understand Shera's feeling of happiness but.....

Because she had raised up her skirt with all of her strength, he could see not just Lumachina's thigh but even her panties as well.

If not for the fact that she was asleep, she surely would have raised a scream.

The underwear of the young lady that was raising a coquettish voice just before this was being flashed right before his eyes.

Even though Diablo was feigning calmness, it was very hard for him to maintain it.

He had been acting together with Rem and Shera after having come to this

other world, but up until then, he had a life where he didn't even have many chances to talk with real live women.

To be honest, the stimulation was too strong.

However, a Demon King that blushes has an innocent feeling and is different from his image of Demon Kings.

In order to gloss over his embarrassment, Diablo had his gaze escape to Rem's direction.

"Finally, one of the problems has been solved."

".....Ah, y, yes. As expected of you, Diablo."

Rem's face was bright red. She was fidgeting and rubbing her inner thighs together. So she had seen Lumachina's state earlier and was feeling bashful. Horun who was beside her was also in a similar state. Her eyes were moist.

"Ah, um.....The toilet, where is it -ssu ka ne?"

—Toilet!?

At the very least, Diablo had not thought of that when he was setting up the place in the game. Something like that probably wouldn't be made in a Demon King's dungeon.

This here is the toilet, this here is the bath, this here is the kitchen, doing stuff like that.....That sort of thing wasn't a Demon King's castle, that was more like Lioca-chan's house![\[1\]](#)

However, he would be troubled if he were to confess that here. Since there was a high possibility that he would also to go eventually, a toilet was needed.

Diablo looked towards Rose's direction. For something like that, it was probably faster to hear it from this Magimatic Maid.

Rose made a thin smile as if she were looking down on Horun.

"Fufu.....She sure is foolish, isn't she, Master? This place is the castle of the Demon King.....Something as filthy as that, there is no way it would exist here."

"Hiii!? The Demon King's castle, what a fearsome place -ssu!!!"

Not just Horun, even Rem and Shera were shaking.

Diablo was also holding his head in his arms in his mind.

—How could this happen! If only I had properly made one within the game!

Next time, let's put one on every floor, is what he decided in his heart.

With her face having turned pale, Horun looked left and right.....She then took a largish silver cup that was on top of a stone pedestal. Rather than calling it a

cup, it was big enough to be a vase.

With a serious expression, Horun made a petition.

"This! This thing! I want to borrow it -ssu!"

"U, umu."

Since it seemed like it would lead to a catastrophe if he were refuse her, Diablo could only nod.

Horun ran off to a distance where her voice couldn't be heard. Her figure vanished into the shadow of one of the countless lined up pedestals.

Rose knitted her eyebrows. Even though she was mechanical, she was a girl with a pretty abundant number of expressions.

"Was that alright? That was....."

"I know. However, it was not something essential to me."

—Although that was an item I obtained in a collab event, it had a pretty exaggerated name.

The 《Holy Grail》

If he remembered correctly, the item explanation went like this.

"If the Holy Grail's question is correctly answered, that person will be awarded with a blessing from the heavens."

In regards to Horun's use for it, he decided to not think about it.

Rose was still discontented.

".....Lending out a treasured article to someone such as that."

"It is fine. I was just thinking of letting these people use the equipment that is here after all."

"Wha!? Master's collection, to people such as these!? Impossible! Master's property, belongs only to Master, and this Rose manages them....."

"It is because having these people have proper equipment on will reduce my troubles. If you say that they belong to me, then there is no problem with me using them in the ways I see fit, correct?"

".....Kuh.....By your great will."

While gritting her teeth, she made a bow.

He placed a hand on her head, and caressed her hair. It was silky, and felt a bit good.

"You have my gratitude, Rose. If you were not here, we would have had a hard time just searching for the item of our objective after all."

With a twitch, her shoulders trembled.

Come to think of it, he felt that he had seen on the internet that one shouldn't touch a woman's hair recklessly.

—Thinking about it more, even if she is a mecha maid, a woman is still a woman, right?

Was it sexual harassment? Was he a sexual harassment Demon King?

Did he go and screw up!?

However, apologizing to a servant for sexual harassment, that was definitely not Demon King-like. How should he follow up?

As he was troubled over that, Rose raised her head up.

Her cheeks were flushed, and her eyes were shiny and sparkling. Even her voice had become high-pitched.

"Please order me however you desire, My Master!!"

Diablo nodded.

He didn't really understand it, but it seems that she was able to come to an agreement with him.

After that, he talked to Rem and the others.

"I have kept you all waiting. Why don't I bestow upon you all some of my treasured articles.!"

The girls' eyes went round in surprise.

Translator's Notes:

[\[1\]](#) Reference to Licca-chan, a Japanese doll.

Part 4

"It would have been nice if I had some Summoned Beasts here as well though."

Since Diablo was not a Summoner, he did not possess any Summoned Beast crystals.

Although it wasn't necessarily meant to be a substitute for it, but he prepared lightweight armor that seemed like it would suit Rem.

".....Th, this is?"

"It is the 《Layer of Secret Stone》. It is something that is fairly rare."

It was an SSR (Double Super Rare) full body armor, and not only did it have high

Physical Defense and Magic Resistance, it also had an effect of Increase Speed. If it was strengthened up all the way, it was possible to endow it with more various things but.....since it was only placed into the treasury since the moment he obtained it, it was “convex-less”.

Rem took the 《Layer of Secret Stone》 in her hands.

".....Is it really alright, for me to have this?"

"Try it out. You should be able to equip it."

Weapons and armor endowed with magic could not be equipped unless one crossed a set level. The game had that sort of specification.

He had other things to hand over to her.

Rose brought over the articles that he indicated.

It was a ring with a rainbow-colored gem fit into it.

"Master, here is the 《Wild Animal's Ring》."

"Good job. Rem, this is a ring that will strengthen Summoned Beasts. MP consumption will increase by thirty percent, but your Summoned Beasts' offense and defense will double."

If she had exceeded level 100, he would have given her more superior items but.....

The foundation of strength was one's level.

And then, there was no choice but to steadily increase one's level.

Both this other world and the game were not generous enough to let the weak live a cheating life of a succession of victories just because they possessed strong weapons.

Rem trembled.

".....Th, that can't be.....If they become that strong, they would already become different Summoned Beasts."

"That is how Summoners are. They strengthen their Summoned Beasts with their equipment and magic. If they did not, they would be compared unfavorably against a fully equipped high level Warrior after all."

Even though Warrior-types are able to increase their fighting strength several fold with magic endowed weapons and armor, even if base Summoned Beasts are lined up next to them, the Summoned Beasts aren't all that useful.

Rather, since they aren't all that useful even if they are strengthened, Summoners were ridiculed as being a “romance class”.

However, this world was not completely the same as the game.

Even if Rem had the talent for close combat, he did not think that he wanted to leave the shield role to her. And even if she wouldn't die, the danger that she would bear injuries from a fight was high. Instead of that, using Summoned Beasts was safer.

Finally, he handed over gauntlets.

"These are called the 《Magic Hands of the Beast》. These also have an Increased Speed effect. In addition, it increases damage against beasts. Wild animals, Demonic Beasts, Summoned Beasts.....There are many to fight against."

".....Yes."

"For the time being, try equipping them."

".....I understand. Thank you very much, Diablo."

"Umu."

".....Um."

"What is wrong? Is it insufficient?"

"That would be unthinkable.....It's just, um....."

"Mu?"

Rem's cheeks were dyed red.

".....It's hard to change clothes with you watching."

"Ooh!?"

Since it was equipment changing, he had completely forgotten. Full body armor, in other words, it was clothes. If she were to change into it, there was a need for her to be in nothing but her underwear at least once.

".....I will try them out."

Holding the arms that were given to her in her arms, Rem hurriedly separated from him.

Diablo tore his gaze away from her retreating figure.

"Y, yosh, next is Shera."

Part 5

"Yes!"

Shera eagerly raised her hand.

He carefully gazed at her from top to bottom.

"Fumu.....I see.....Yosh! There is nothing. On to the next one."

"Ehhhh!?! That's so mean, Diablo! It's alway Rem! Give something like clothes to me too!"

"Those are the clothes of Elven royalty, aren't they? They have several types of magical endowments applied to them."

"Un."

"If you had passed over level 100, I would have prepared some fairly strong clothes for you. However, with your current level, that is the upper limit."

Rose was nodding next to him.

"According to my appraisal, that full body armor is the 《Coat of Princess》."

He had never heard of it. Was it armor not implemented in the game?

"Rose, you can tell the status of magical endowments?"

"Yes, Master.....Her 《Coat of Princess》 has seven types of magical endowments. Things like raising every physical ability and strengthening Magic Resistance."

—In other words, this is also an EX (Extra) class.

It was equipment on the same level as the 《Hollow of Jet Black》 that Diablo had equipped. There was a suitable difference in level though.

Naturally, if it was in the base state that he obtained it in, there was no greater armor than that.

The same went with her weapon.

"Shera, on top of your bow having been strong to begin with, it has Krum's magical endowment. With your current level, there is no bow stronger than that."

With Rose's appraisal of this as well, he learned that it had the title of 《Sylvestre Bow • Darkness》.

In addition to increasing her power and accuracy rate, there was a high probability of causing 《Petrification》 together with the damage.

What surprised him was that it was suitable for those level 70 and up.

In other words, it meant that Shera was greater than level 70 as an Archer.

It was a figure that seemed like it would give Rem a shock if she were to hear it.

"*shuu—n*"

Shera dropped her shoulders.

"What a hopeless fellow. Since you learned that your own arms are strong,

shouldn't you be delighted?"

"But, if only Rem gets presents from you, Diablo, it would be sad."

Was it that sort of problem?

"You really cannot be helped. Come to think of it, there were some arrows. Go and use them. There are also some 《Squall Arrows》. About 100 of them."

"Wawah, that's amazing!"

He gave the order to Rose to bring various types of magically endowed bows here.

Up until now, she had been using the store bought 《Evergreen Oak Arrows》, but she is surely able to act more effectively.

With the multicolored arrows before her, Shera expressed a whole faced smile.

"Is it alright for me to use these!? Wah—, this is troubling—. I wonder which ones I should take with me!? Thank you, Diablo!"

"With this, you are able to actively participate more."

"Un!"

"As an Archer."

".....Wah—.....How troubling. Should I use these or not."

Her high spirits suddenly dropped. She was thinking that she wanted to become a Summoner.

He thought that it was about time for her to give her undivided attention to being an Archer though.

Diablo transferred his gaze to the next one.

"Now then, I have kept you waiting, Horun. I suppose we will start from your clothes."

Suddenly, Shera stopped her eyes on an article that was on a pedestal.

It was a silver ring.

"Hey, Rem received a ring, right? I also want one, this sort of thing."

"Do as you like."

There weren't any articles that were cursed in the vicinity. It should be nothing but collection items of no use whatsoever. Because of that, Diablo didn't even check it.

At any rate, he would not use any of them himself other than the 《Demon King's Ring》 that he had equipped.

Shera delightedly placed it on the ring finger of her left hand.

Part 6

Rose tilted her head.

"This Grasswalker, why is she naked? I don't understand the meaning of it."

"I had burned her clothes."

With this explanation, it seemed that it was still impossible for her to understand. Rose kept her head tilted.

Horun blushed.

"Uuu.....I would have liked it if you had at least left me my pants -ssu."

"Think if it as fortuitous that at least your life was saved. Besides, I shall prepare clothes for you."

"I'm grateful -ssu! I wouldn't be able to return to town like this -ssu!"

"You were a 《Thief》, weren't you."

"I've said this minor detail several times already but -ssu kedo, I'm a 《Seeker》 -ssu."

Pretending that he didn't hear her, he chose the most suitable items from the arms that were in the treasury from inside of his head.

When it came to level 20, there weren't that many choices.

Telling them Rose, he had her bring them over.

Since it was hard to see the top of the pedestal with Horun's height, they were lined up on the floor.

"This is the 《Treasure Mini》. Not only does it increase speed, it also raises Magic Resistance just a bit. Naturally, it also has a Physical Defense magical endowment on it."

As armor that could be equipped at level 20, it was a piece of excellent SR (Super Rare) class equipment.

Even leaving that aside, there was a point that it was much better than the clothes that had been burned.

Horun's eyes went wide open.

"It's a skirt -ssu ka!? Moreover, a mini-skirt -ssu ka!?"

"For you to notice that, you are pretty good."

"Of course I would notice -ssu! That's normal -ssu!"

"Well, don't mind it."

"I do mind it -ssu! At times like when climbing ladders, like when squatting, or like when I've fallen over, my panties will be seen -ssu! Anyone that dives into a dungeon with a mini-skirt is a female pervert -ssu!"

—Oi, stupid, stop it.

Just how many people was she planning on picking a fight with?

Diablo crossed his arms and thought about how he could stop Horun from making anymore of this dangerous speech and conduct.

"It might have an effect of increasing the male members' fighting spirit, you know?"

"I don't want to be put in a party together with a guy that gets enhanced with my panties -ssu."

She was twelve years old after all.

"However, when it comes to clothes with a magical endowment for level 20, this is the most superior one."

Next to him, Rose made a thin smile.

"To drop complaints over Master's management.....Let me leave you in the fifth underground floor just like this."

Horun was frightened.

"By fifth floor, isn't that the snow floor -ssu ka?"

"Fufufu.....It's alright. If you give it 10 minutes, the cold will disappear after all."

"That means that I would die -ssu! No way -ssu! I don't want to die yet -ssu!"

Going 'Wait, wait', Diablo went between and separated them.

"If you do not want it no matter what, I have other things. However, you might be able to just barely evade an attack or get off lightly with an injury that you received with it.....do you not want it despite that?"

Going *Uu*, she gulped.

She stiffened up for a short while.

Most likely, the "situations that she thought that she would have died from" that she experienced up until now were running through her mind.

".....Uguh.....I, I get it -ssu. Certainly, as an Adventurer, it's life over panties -ssu."

"That is just reasoning."

There were many people that would risk their lives over panties though.

Next, he handed over a mantle and a dagger.

"This 《Ignore Mantle》 strengthens the Hide Skill. And then this is a 《Shadow Knife》. It has a strange ability of raising evasiveness even though it is a weapon, but it will surely be useful while your level is low."

"Ah.....Is it no good if I don't leave the old one behind -ssu ka?"

Horun stroked her own dagger.

It was a cheap, normal dagger that had no magic endowed on it. If this were the game, it would be iron trash that he would have automatically turned into strengthening materials.

"Is there a reason?"

Seeming like it was a bit hard for her to say, Horun made a seemingly lonely expression.

"Well.....It's a memento of my Shishou -ssu. He got caught in a trap that fell from the ceiling, and was crushed flat, and only this.....is what remains of him -ssu."

So a 《Thief》 got caught in a trap. Moreover, to have nothing but this iron trash equipped on him, he probably wasn't at a level for him to take on a disciple.

"Uumu....."

Diablo was troubled over what he should say.

Rose made a declaration.

"To call himself a teacher with only that level of ability, how utterly foolish. He overestimated his abilities and went beyond his means."

She was a girl that could say seemingly hard to say things without hesitation. If he had to say whether or not she was Magimatic-like, she was.

Horun scratched her head.

"That true -ssu ne. I also thought that Shishio wasn't an amazing person -ssu..... But, that's why, I'm grateful for how he still raised me despite that -ssu."

"Ah....."

Rose faltered.

The inside of Diablo's nose became a bit stuffed. He was weak against such nice/sad stories since long ago.

He placed his hands on both of Horun's shoulders.

"Go and carry both of them! Even if it is not magically endowed, that dagger will surely protect you!"

"Ah, thank you -ssu, Danna!"

Horun expressed a smile.

Not having any sense of her position as a part of her race or as an Adventurer, that was a smile becoming of a twelve year old girl.

Part 7

Horun also took her new clothes in hand, and dashed away.

This time, it wasn't in order to use the 《Holy Grail》 for something, but in order to change her clothes.

It seemed that Rem was also still in the middle of changing her equipment.

Saying that she would go and check on how she was doing, Shera also headed further inside of the treasury.

Diablo turned his gaze towards Lumachina's direction.

Since there wasn't anything decent to serve as a bed, they piled up thick mantles, and layed her down on top of that.

She still had not awoken.

"Fumu.....well, I suppose I will prepare something for her. All that's left is, my equipment. Nn? Is something wrong, Rose?"

She was hanging her head down and her shoulders were trembling.

".....No.....Because I am obeying Master's will, this Rose is delighted.

However.....to give so many treasured articles to ones such as them."

"There is no meaning to obtaining them if they were not to be used."

When he was playing the game, it was a collective feeling.

However, having someone to give them to, that in itself was fun.

It was also a fact that if those girls became able to protect themselves, then the burden on Diablo would decrease.

Rose nodded. That expression of her was something that looked like her feelings of crying and laughing had been mixed together.

"Yes. Being able to obey Master's commands, I am experiencing supreme pleasure. However, at the same time, I feel like I am going to go crazy with jealousy."

"O, oi....."

"Even though the Master from before would be affectionate only with me."
—That's because I didn't have any acquaintances to bring into my personal space after all.

He looked back on his own past thinking 'Did I have a lonely life where I only talked to furniture?'

There weren't any good memories.

Shaking his head, he drove away his negative memories.

What was important was the present and the future. He decided to not be fixated on the past. It was because his current self was the Demon King Diablo.

"I preferred solitude. That was simply all."

"Is it different now?"

"No, that isn't really the case."

It's fun when Rem and Shera are there, that is how he felt. However, it was also a fact that he could calm down when he was alone.

Rose smiled.

"Master, if you desire silence, then shall I go right now and erase the unpleasant noise?"

"Stop it."

".....Yes."

She had a dissatisfied look, but she nodded.

He was troubled.

Even though his own mentality was constantly at its limits, he was unable to follow up on a person's heart. Even if she told him that she was jealous and felt like she was going crazy, he didn't have any arms to give to a Magimatic Maid.....

Suddenly, Diablo had an idea.

—In the MMORPG Cross Reverie, there weren't any arms to give to a Magimatic Maid. However, this is another world. The terrain can be changed with attack magic, and it's possible to converse with Dragons and Magimatic Maids. The degree of freedom is much higher than a game with a production cost of 7 billion yen, and is another reality.

Diablo took a blue hair ornament that was on a nearby pedestal.

Rose tilted her head.

"What would you like to do, Master? That is a 《Water Hair Ornament》—It is an

N (Normal) class armor with no level restriction, and its 3% resistance against Water attribute attacks is....."

"This is, when I first started the MMORPG Cross Reverie.....Ah, do you understand? The words Cross Reverie and game?"

".....I do not know them."

So she didn't know that vocabulary.

It seemed that although Rose understood that "she herself and the dungeon did not exist in this world from the beginning", she was not aware that she "originally existed inside of a game".

The ones that knew of the MMORPG Cross Reverie really was only Diablo.

He changed his words.

"This was the first article that I had acquired since I was born."

"Eh....."

He tried placing it on Rose's head.

He was sorry that he didn't have anything good prepared and used anything that was available, but he wanted to demonstrate his gratitude for her being here. If she was feeling jealousy over how he was doing nothing but giving articles to the others, he would be happy if her feelings would change a little with this, is what he thought.

Diablo wasn't skilled enough with his mouth to put those feelings into words. That is why he kept silent and ornamented her hair.

Rose stiffened up.

With the nervousness of like when you try to stand a coin on its side on top of a table, Diablo separated his hands from her.

He didn't know if its effect would occur, but the 《Water Hair Ornament》 didn't get disconnected and fall. As he thought, this world had a high degree of freedom.

"With your strength, it probably will not be of use, but....."

"Is it alright to entrust this with me?"

So she couldn't understand with just him keeping silent and placing it on her head.

He went through the hardship of thinking of the words.

"You're wrong. That is not something for you to manage. That is.....If you don't like it, I won't force you to accept it but, for you Rose, it's a pr, pr, pres.....In, in

other words, a Demon King is granting it to you!"

His hiding his embarrassment turned into his Demon King role play.

"!?"

She froze up for an instant.

In the game, he couldn't have a conversation with her, nor could he gift her things.

It was a somewhat strange feeling.

Rose's shoulders quivered.

"Y, you are.....conferring, this? To me?"

"It is an item that does not amount to much, but it is a memorabilia of mine."

It was probably hard for a Magimatic to understand such value though.

He might have made a mistake in the choice of goods.

This is why those with communication disorders are so.....With that, he got disappointed with himself all on his own.

The irritated look vanished from Rose's expression. It returned to being expressionless like a mask.

"Thank you very much, My Master.....I am terribly sorry for making you worry about me. Rose is fine."

"I see."

Diablo breathed a sigh of relief.

To think that he would end up giving a present in order to pacify a girl's jealousy in the world of the MMORPG Cross Reverie.....

—This sort of thing, it isn't a Fantasy RPG, but a Romance Simulation, isn't it?

Moreover, it's one of those nostalgic ones where the game balance is strict.

He was tired from doing something he wasn't used to, but since it seemed to have mended Rose's mood, he was glad.

Switching over his thoughts, he brought up the names of the arms that he himself would use.

Rose quietly nodded.

Part 8

"Mu? So you've awakened."

".....Nnu"

Lumachina opened her eyes.

Having been noticed by Diablo, she tried to stand up in a hurry.

She staggered and ended up looking like she would collapse again.

Diablo supported her, and made her sit down a bit forcefully.

"It is still too early for you to move about. Although it was dispelled, you had taken in the hex for several days after all. It is only natural that you are fatigued. In addition, I had heard that you had even used a large Healing miracle, doing something so foolish."

Moreover, it was for the sake of saving the enemy that tried to kill her.....

She truly was a good-natured person.

After Lumachina made a small nod, she obediently sat down on top of the mantles, grasping her knees.

He received a somewhat strange impression of it, but the people of this country did not have a habit of sitting on the ground. There wasn't a culture of sitting cross-legged or sitting a way a girl sat. The form of lowering one's bottom while still in the position of sitting in a chair was probably what sitting on the floor while holding one's knees was.

She fixed her disheveled clothes, and concealed her exposed thighs.

Her cheeks were dyed slightly red.

"I am sorry. I ended up showing you an unsightly scene."

"No, I was able to see something goo—"

"Eh?"

He ended up nearly saying something strange. Diablo cleared his throat to gloss over it.

"Ahem! Do not mind it, it was due to their sorcery."

"Thank you very much.....It is reassuring to have you say that."

"Just now, I had given Rem and the others arms of the treasury. However, it would seem that you are the same as Shera where you are already wearing sufficiently superior goods."

"Eh? You mean my clothes? This is an outfit that the Head of the Holy Knights Baduta prepared but.....I believe that it is an appearance that I would not be embarrassed to be in as the High Chief Priest."

It seemed to have considerably strong Physical Defense and Magic Resistance

applied to it. Even its appearance was polite and refined.

Within the treasury, there is armor with much higher abilities than what Lumachina was wearing. Since her level as a Healer had signs of having passed 100, she could probably equip them.

However, she had her position as the High Chief Priest. When it came to appropriate clothing, he thought that the priest clothing she was wearing right now was the most suitable.

No matter how much greater the abilities are due to magical endowments, there would surely be a problem with clothes that exposed her navel or chest.—The clothing for use by women, for some reason, the surface of cloth decreases the higher the level is.

Diablo showed her items that he had prepared.

"There are also necklaces and bracelets. Go and take whatever you like. If you are still going to continue your fight to rectify the Church, they should be useful."

"To give me this many.....Thank you very much, Diablo-sama."

Lumachina sent her gaze around.

"Nn? Is there something that bothers you?"

"No.....Um, where is everyone?"

It was only natural that would bother her.

He was the weird one for first talking about equipment before talking about where the others were—Diablo understood that. It seemed that his loner habits also come out at times like this.

If not for his Demon King role play, his senses would have been doubted. That was close.

"There is no problem with them. They were considerably tired, and are currently sleeping in the 《Demon King's Room》."

"Thank goodness."

Lumachina's expression softened.

After that, she returned to talking.

"Um, there is something I would like to have."

"Hou?"

It was a bit surprising. Going by her personality, he wondered if there was anything that she would want but.....

Lumachina turned her gaze.

"Could I have you give me that 《White Cow Statue》? There are many people in Zircon Tower City that are still suffering from the Marked Death Disease."

"I see, that is very much like you. So rather than yourself, you would first help other people."

"I believe myself to be normal but.....am I strange?"

"You are strange. But, stay that way. The sparks that will fall from it, I shall clear them away. You should just stay the way that you are."

Monsters wandering aimlessly, racial discrimination running rampant, and the Church being corrupt—The fact that there is a young lady of pure disposition in such a world, Diablo believed that to be precious.

He wanted to assist her.

Lumachina wiped the corner of her eye.

"That makes me happy.....To have that said to me, by Kami-sama....."

"Ah, no....."

Come to think of it, she believed that Diablo was Kami-sama. That, for certain reasons, he was acting as an Adventurer that claimed to be a Demon King on the surface, but was actually God.

Moreover, because he had seen as far as her most precious place, if Diablo were a person of the Races, she would have to marry him! That seemed to be what she was thinking.

Lumachina was virtuous, a beauty, and there were no complaints about her figure.

However, he did not believe that someone with a communication disorder like himself could be the groom of the High Chief Priest. That was as absurd as an earthworm flying through the sky.

Because of that, even if he was called Kami-sama by her, Diablo was unable to deny it.

—But, Lumachina is clever, so it seems like she would be to notice my lies though?

He stared closely at her.

The other party looked his way without even blinking.

She was cute.

She was cute but.....Being bad with people's gazes, Diablo felt like he would

instinctively avert his eyes. He felt like a frog that was being glared at by a snake. Lumachina opened her cherry blossom lips.

"Um, Kami-sama.....Could I have you give me the 《White Cow Statue》?"

"Eh? Ah, the talk about that. U, umu! Go ahead and take it. No, since it looks considerably heavy, I suppose a cart is needed."

"No, I, will do my best. I will carry it back. I want to deliver it to the town even a minute faster."

".....Let us help you out as well."

With a voice suddenly calling out, Diablo turned around.

Rem was making a wry smile.

".....As usual, you do rash things for the sake of helping other people, don't you, Lumachina."

"Rem-san. And everyone else."

Shera rushed over to her.

"Lumachina-chan, you've become healthy now! That's great!"

She suddenly hugged her. Lumachina also hugged her back.

"Thank you very much. Shera-san too, I have received much of your favor."

"It's fine! Companions help each other out!"

"Companions.....It makes me very happy to be called that."

Rem shrugged her shoulders.

"That's disrespectful, you know, Shera? To call the High Chief Priest a companion.....No, come to think of it, you were royalty, weren't you."

"Things like positions don't matter—. Rem, Lumachina-chan, and Horun-chan.....Plus Diablo and Rose-san, we're all companions!"

Rem blushed.

Horun's eyes went round.

"Me too, I'm a companion -ssu ka!? Really -ssu ka!? Ah, is that only for now -ssu ka!?"

"No it isn't—. We're companions forever—. I mean, we did our best together on an adventure."

In a place a bit separated from them, Rose made a troubled-looking face.

"Rose did not go on an adventure."

"Then, how about we have an adventure together from hereon?"

Rose displayed a baffled looking expression at Shera's words.

"No.....I was stationed on the thirteenth floor by Master after all."

Suddenly, Diablo was interested in something.

"Are Magimatic Maids unable to leave the places they were stationed?"

"I do not know. This Rose has never left the dungeon."

"I see. In that case, we should try testing it. From now on, we will head to Zircon Tower City. Since there are many inflicted with the Marked Death Disease, we shall bring the 《White Cow Statue》—Or so that is what Lumachina says."

A Demon King that would shed sweat for the sake of helping others, that was probably a bit different from his image of Demon Kings. No, if he was going to say that, even cooperating with the High Chief Priest was strange.

However, for Diablo's true opinion, he was thinking that he "wanted to help people if he could help them".

His inner self was an average person that was raised in a country where "they help each other in times of trouble".

Rose knitted her eyebrows.

"Zircon Tower City is it. Even if you were to carry the statue there now, I do not know if there is any meaning to it....."

"What? What you mean by that?"

Could it be that the Marked Death Disease had progressed faster than they had expected?

Lumachina gulped. Rem and the others hardened their expressions.

Rose told them with an indifferent tone.

"It seems that the Demon King's army is advancing towards Zircon Tower City."

Interlude 2

Part 1

Lifelia Kingdom Calendar Year 164, Month 7, Day 27, Afternoon—

On top of the sand ship's deck—Seated on a throne that was installed on a pedestal, Lamnites glared at the distance.

A soldier came running to her.

"A report! The evacuation of the people has been half completed, that is what it says!"

"So there is still half left. It is going too slowly."

"I am terribly sorry! Because the whereabouts of the Head of the Holy Knights is unknown, there have been unexpected difficulties in our coordination with the Church, and the transportation of the sick and injured has not made progress—"

"I should have given directions for that a while ago though?"

It couldn't be helped she was thrown candid advice by the messenger, but Lamnites did not conceal her displeasure.

Since the day after the Demonic Being that named himself as the commander-in-chief of the Demon King's Army Vanaknes had attacked, she predicted that it would be like this.

She had made various preparations to match up with the next full moon.

She clicked her tongue.

—There should still be three days until the full moon!

She hated men that made a fuss over small details, but she hated men that acted sketchy and did not keep their promises even more.

A different messenger came running forward.

"The Demon King Army's distance—5000 meld! They have been sighted! Their number, roughly 300! There are also figures of large Demonic Beasts."

—Their number is 300 huh.

If they were people of the Races, they would be a small group not worth mentioning. A single sand ship's worth of soldiers would be enough to fight against them.

On her side, she had gathered up 40,000 soldiers and Adventurers in this short period of time. She had also prepared about 200 sand ships of various sizes. It was a large-scale fighting power.

However, it was not enough.

The enemy was the Demon King's Army—It was a mixed force of Demonic Beings and Demonic Beasts. The fighting strength of each and every one of them was different.

Even if it was 40,000 versus 300, they were still lacking one digit. That is how she thought.

Lamnites made a command.

"Hurry up on grasping the enemy's battle formation. The enemy army should also have species capable of flight, so be strict in monitoring the skies!"

"Understood!"

Reports were brought to her one after another.

The Demon King's Army did not drop its speed, and was drawing nearer.

The front line was medium sized Demonic Beasts.

At the center of the force, there was a large sized Demonic Beast that looked like a turtle, and the figure of someone that seemed to be the commanding officer was confirmed to be on its back.

Demonic Being Vanaknes.

A beautiful young man that possessed the wings of a bat.

They approached to a distance where each and every one of the enemy army could be seen even with the naked eye.

It was close enough where anyone with good enough skill with a Magi Gun could reach them, but even if they attacked one or two shots ahead of them, it would only upset the entire army's pace.

Rather, she wanted to create the war front here, and prolong the fight for as long as possible. She needed the evacuation from Zircon Tower City to be completed during that time.....

To let as many civilians as possible escape. To not exhaust the soldiers. To make sure that she herself survived—Those were Lamnites' objectives in this battle. She could not win with the current difference in military strength. Zircon Tower City would surely fall. However, if the human damages were kept at a minimum, a chance to counterattack should be created.

A surveillance soldier that was glaring at the enemy camp with binoculars raised his voice.

"The Demon King's Army, only the center large sized Demonic Beast is coming out! It is believed that the enemy commanding officer is aboard its back!"

"What was that?"

As part of the theory of tactics, the commanding officer was something that would either be in the center of the force or be waiting at the back, and was meant to be protected.

In chess, there was no one that would send the king to the front row.

However, the enemy came out.

Lamnites was perplexed.

It was surely a provocation.

It would be fine for her to give the soldiers the command to open fire, but the fact that Vanaknes had trespassed into Zircon Tower had already become a rumor and spread.

—So if I were to fall to the back here, the morale would lower.

If the soldiers were to suspect that 'Lamnites, the commanding officer, feared the Demonic Beings', it would become difficult to maintain the war front.

She clicked her tongue.

To think that the Demonic Beings would start with psychological warfare.....

Lamnites shouted.

"Captain, bring this 《Golkalios》 forward! There is no need for any attendants!"

In order to respond to the provocation, she gave the order for only the flagship that Lamnites was riding, the 《Golkalios》, to advance.

He was an experienced captain, but to challenge the Demon King's Army with a single ship, he showed a moment of hesitation. But even so, he honestly obeyed.

"Unfurl the third and fourth sails! Sail at half speed!!"

The large sails that were bestowed with sorcery caught wind. The heavy, large sized sand ship left the other ships behind and advanced forward.

The swelling of the unit's tension could be felt.

Let alone Magi Guns and bows and arrows, they approached the enemy to a distance where even their voices could reach each other.

Part 2

Right in the center of the area where the two armies glared at each other—Vanaknes, who rode on the shell of a gigantic Demonic Beast, and Lamnites, who rode a sand ship, glared at each other.

Vanaknes was dressed in a tuxedo similar to the one that he wore that night a few days ago. It was an appearance that seemed like he was going to an evening party rather than a battlefield.

Surrounding him, there were about four women that possessed things like a lizard tail or crow wings waiting upon him.

Come to think of it, he did say something like “my harem”, didn’t he.

Lamnites shouted at him.

"You would be accompanied by women on the battlefield! Screwing around like that! I shall send you to a fate appropriate for that arrogance!"

"Fufufu.....These women are my beloved wives, and officers of the Demon King’s Army. And then, Lamnites, they are also your sister brides."

Lamnites’ eyes became sharper.

"What is that!? That “sister brides” thing!?"

Vanaknes made a smirk.

He raised the ring finger of his left hand.

"It means that if you are added to my harem, these women will become your sisters. Please get along with them. I dislike disputes."

A silver ring was fit on his finger. And then, the women around him proudly displayed their rings as well.

Lamnites spat out.

"It is impossible for me to have Demonic Beings as my groom or sisters! You damned imbeciles!"

"I prepared a ring for your sake, you know? I’ve even made it to properly match your size. I want to hurry up and put it on you. And then, let’s hurry up and make love."

"Damned idiot.....If it is about things that we wish to hand over, I have also prepared something only for your sake."

"Ohh, I am looking forward to that!"

Vanaknes spread out both of his arms.

Lamnites grabbed the Magi Gun that was set down nearby. It was a very long rifle that was about as long as her height.

"You should accept it!"

Getting down, she readied it with both of her hands. The injury on her right shoulder had already healed.

"Leave my territory, damned monsters! 《Lightning Shot》!"

In order to increase the power, she made the Charge (chant) for the magic. She pulled the trigger.

At the center of the battlefield where both armies were glaring at each other, only the first gunshot resounded.

The bullet that was strengthened by multiple magics—

Pierced through Vanaknes' left breast.

A shock wave spread out.

A gaping hole opened on the opponent's left breast.

He looked down at it.

".....Magnificent."

Saying only that, he suddenly fell back.

UOOOO——!! The army of the Races raised shouts of joy. They raised praising voices saying "King! King! King!"

Lamnites curved the ends of her mouth at the definite response that happened. If the command of the enemy army were to become disordered with this, a chance at victory might be born.

With a panicked look, one of his harem brides rushed over to him.

No, it was questionable as to whether the expression 'rushed over' was correct or not.....The upper half of her body was that of a person, but her lower half was that of a fish.

When that half fish woman touched him—

Vanaknes slowly raised his body up.

A hole opened up on his clothes, but there was no longer even a scratch left on his skin.

He expressed a composed smile.

"Fufu.....I was surprised. I had not received this much of an injury even before I had been blessed with Demon King-sama's power. Farnis, my beloved.....I swear upon this left breast that I shall absolutely take you in as my wife."

Countless screams were raised.

Several ships were able to avoid falling into the tear due to skillful steering, but many of the elites that lined up the front row were lost.

Lamnites tightly clenched her fists.

—To think that there was someone who could use such large-scale magic! Her forces fell into chaos. It was difficult to even grasp the number of lost warships.

And then, the Demon King's Army was not kind enough to remain being spectators.

Raising strange voices that did not seem to be from creatures of this world, the cluster of Demonic Beings and Demonic Beasts came charging in.

Vanaknes' large sized Demonic Beast that should have unnaturally come out solo did not move—And as a result, it ended up taking the form of it having taken up the perfect position to give commands from slightly behind the front line.

Lamnites gritted her teeth.

—So everything, was in the palm of his hands!?

Vanaknes smiled.

"Making the enemy line fall into chaos with large-scale magic, then having the entire army charge in. That was a strategy that was one of the basics in the previous Great War, you know? The people of the Races really age easily and are quick to forget.....That ephemeralness and foolishness, I do not hate it. Now then, see a splendid nightmare, and sleep peacefully."

Part 3

The battlefield was filled with angry roars and screams.

Lamnites was defeated.

The war front had collapsed without taking even a single day, many of the soldiers were lost.....And then, not even she herself could be saved.

"Kuh.....If I am going to receive the raping of a Demonic Being.....I might as well....."

Lamnites loaded a bullet into the Magi Gun.

She yelled out instructions to the soldiers that looked up to her.

"Even if I sink in defeat! Even if this life of mine comes to an end! I shall never show my back! For I am the king of the country of sand!"

The soldiers raised their fists overhead.

She made a command.

"The target is the enemy commanding officer! Turn towards the large sized Demonic Beast, and charge!"

The captain steered the ship.

"《Golkarios》, full speed ahead! Gunners concentrate on the front! Open a way out!"

The soldiers that carried Magi Guns gathered at the sand ship's bow, and fired away at the approaching Demonic Beings and Demonic Beasts.

It wasn't like all of the Demonic Beings and Demonic Beasts were sturdy like Vanaknes. He was just too strong.

If the bullets of the Magi Guns hit, damage would normally be given.

Lamnites glared at the enemy headquarters.

".....So the problem is Vanaknes' followers. With this trend, there is no mistake that the other women also possess abilities far from the norm."

"That's exactly right～♪"

From really close by, an out-of-place cheerful voice of a woman was made, and Lamnites opened her eyes wide from it.

Immediately following that, a sharp pain ran through her side.

"Gahah!?"

When she realized it—

Lamnites fell flat onto the deck.

Her side was hot as if she were being burned. A large amount of blood was flowing out.

And then, she saw a black something come out create a human figure from her own shadow.

—She appeared from within my shadow!?

It was the woman that possessed crow wings.

The woman swung her black curly hair, and looked down on the collapsed Lamnites.

"I'm gone, I'm gone, baa～♪"

"Y, you are.....!?"

"Nfufu~, although I came because I was told to “stop this ship” by Vanaknes ~? I really hate women with bigger tits than me, you know~? That’s why, I don’t want to let you into the harem. Would you die? Could you just die?"

The guard soldiers that were monitoring the surroundings ended up noticing at this late point in time. While raising shouts, they swung their swords.

However, the Demonic Being woman caught their swords with only one hand. She had talons that looked like the ones on a crow’s feet attached to her hands. It didn’t end with her just coming out from her shadow. She was a suitably strong Demonic Being.

Lamnites squeezed out her voice.

"R, run away....."

Before those words could reach them—

Pan! *Pan!* Strangely light sounds happened in succession. It was the sound of the Demonic Being woman’s talons crushing the heads of the soldiers along with their helmets.

The soldiers that were her guard were turned into corpses in an instant. They fell into a pool of blood.

A sense of despair overwhelmed Lamnites’ heart.

—What in the world, is this?

A commanding officer that won’t die even if his heart is shot through. A Healer that can heal a severe wound in an instant. A Magician strong enough to crush a fleet. An Assassin that appears from people’s shadows.....

It was a nightmare.

—You mean to say that the people of the Races won against these guys in the previous Great War?

Impossible.

They weren’t even able to put up a fight.

Lamnites muttered.

".....Would you even, call this.....a war?"

"Let’s see~, I would call something like this a war. To Demonic Beings, this would be—a massacre show of the Races."

The Demonic Being woman sneered.

She held her talons that were wet with deep red aloft.

"Bye by~e♪ You people of the Races, you’re so weak that it was boring."

".....Someone."

"Nn?"

Lamnites leaked out a voice while still crouched down on the deck of the ship.

"Someone.....Please save them.....the soldiers.....the soldiers....."

"You're so stupid～. If you don't want to die, then it would have been better if you weren't born in the first place♪"

Their field of vision was wrapped up in a flash of light.

In the battlefield that boiled in madness, countless thunderbolts rained down. With the roaring sound of thunder, the air shook.

The complexion of the Demonic Being woman changed, and she surveyed the surroundings.

"What's going on!?"

".....That, just now was?"

The weather should have been clear.

It was a phenomenon that Lamnites did not know about.

A soldier from somewhere raised his voice.

"The enemy's attacking forces, they've been reduced by half! Th, they're disordered! Lightning, fell!?"

A surprise different from the ones they received from the large scale magic and the Demon King Army's charge had spread out among the soldiers.

[—Please return. The situation has changed.]

Vanaknes' voice was heard.

His voice streamed out from the earring that was attached to the Demonic Being woman's ear.

[Can you hear me?]

"Return!? Why!? Let me kill more!"

[That is not permitted. It would be dangerous for you to be isolated in the enemy lines after all. I do not want to lose you.]

"Me, isolated!? What do you mean by that!?"

She surveyed the surroundings.

Lamnites also raised her body.

And then, she discovered someone floating in the sky.

—Who, is that?

A man clad in pitch black armor, prepared his staff.

"《Lightning Meteor》!!"

When the man swung down his staff, countless thunderbolts came raining down.

It was Chemical Elemental Magic.

The atmosphere trembled, and the Demonic Beings and Demonic Beasts were burned away. That was clearly magic that surpassed the limits of what the people of the Races could handle.



Chapter 6: Trying Out Using Weapons

Part 1

"Could it be, are you going to save them, Master?"

Rose made a surprised-looking face.

Diablo thought about it.

If there was a town that seemed like it was going to be attacked by Demonic Beings, he wanted to save it. It was not only out of simple sympathy—Protecting the people of the Races from Demonic Beings was the basic story of the MMORPG Cross Reverie.

As a Gamer, he could not ignore that.

However, a Demon King that would rush at full speed to a town that was in a pinch, that was slightly different from his image of Demon Kings.

Diablo snorted.

"Hmph.....Something like a town of man, that is of no interest to me. However, the Demon King's Army you say? For them to purport themselves as the Demon King's Army without my permission—I cannot overlook that!"

"I see, to not have notice the reason for Master's anger, this Rose.....is extremely embarrassed."

It seems that he got her to agree.

Rem also made preparations to depart.

".....It isn't for that sort of reason, but I will also go. Hearing that there is a town that seems like it going to be attacked by Demonic Beings, I cannot just leave that alone."

"Un! We need to help each others out in times of trouble!"

Shera also carried her bow on her back.

Horun clutched her fists.

"I'll go too -ssu! I want to save the people of the town that has always been looking after me -ssu!"

Gaku gaku Her knees were trembling. She was extremely terrified.

Lumachina nodded.

"Surely, there is no mistake that us happening to be present is Kami-sama's

discretion. I would like to provide my services in order to save the town."

Rose tilted her head.

"I do not believe that you girls are good enough to be counted as war potential. Wouldn't you all just drag Master down?"

Rem shook her head side to side.

".....The battlefield, it is not a place where you only fight against the enemy. Could it be that you have not experienced an actual battlefield?"

"Mu. That is.....because ever since this Rose was created by Master, I have not left this dungeon."

".....You sure are a fortunate person. Diablo, our preparations are complete. Let's hurry."

Rem forcibly brought an end to the conversation. There was no rebuttal from Rose.

There was no mistake that it was better if they hurried.

It seemed that she was forming the journey plan in her head.

".....No matter how fast we hurry towards Zircon Tower City, it will take two days. But if our luck is good, I believe that the town will still be safe."

He did not think that Zircon Tower City, which had no barrier, would be able to hold out against a large army of Demonic Beings.

It is because of that difficulty that the front line of the Races was the Fortress City Faltra.

Diablo restrained Rem who looked like she would head towards the door at any moment.

"Do not be impatient."

".....Diablo?"

"Taking two days to get there, it would be absolutely impossible to save the town. There is no way we would make it in time."

"Th.....that.....might be true but....."

Not just Rem, even the others were speechless.

Horun looked like she was going to cry.

Diablo pulled out an item. It was a feather that emitted a faint white light.

It was an 《Angel's Feather》.

It would transfer the user's entire party to any location.

In the game, so that advanced Players wouldn't be able to take along beginners,

there was a specification that it could only transfer the party to a location where all party members have visited. In this other world, how would it work? To begin with, would it even function?

He had misgivings even when he used 《Return》 before, but the situation of failing and [being inside of a rock] was possible. He would be buried alive. Should he be frank and tell them the danger of it?

There was no meaning to that. After all, even if he were to warn them, these girls would surely say “even so, we’ll try it”. If they weren’t like that, they wouldn’t have said anything about trying to save the town from the Demon King’s Army in the first place.

And above all, explaining the danger of an item, that wasn’t Demon King-like. Diablo showed the feather to the others.

"This is called an 《Angel’s Feather》. It is a treasured article that will transfer everyone here to any location."

Rem’s eyes went round.

"Is, is that.....what you used before when you came rushing to Faltra City in an instant from 《Fort Bridge Ulg》.....?"

"It is a bit different, but the fact that it is Transfer Magic is the same."

".....In that case, it looks like it’s certain that we will make it in time."

"If we didn’t, there would be no meaning in using it."

"U, um....."

"What is it?"

".....With that, is it alright, to keep our eyes closed?"

Going *kaa*, Rem got red in the face.

Now that she mentioned it, he remembered how she was scared at the time with the sand ship. It seemed that she was bad with any sort of travel other than her own feet. It was a bit charming.

Shera leaned her body forward.

"Waa, it’s that, right!? You’re going to use it again!?"

When Diablo tried out transferring before, she experienced it together with him. It seemed that she enjoyed it.

Horun tilted her head.

"What’re you talking about -su ka?"

Lumachina didn’t even have a doubt. Most likely, she completely believed in

Diablo. He felt that that in itself was scary but.....

Rose expressed a seemingly lonely smile.

".....Master, this Rose has never gone to another town."

"Umu."

"W, will this be.....where we say our farewells? I will dream of the day you will come back.....I want to wait for you. For however long it will take."

"Wait. Certainly, you have not visited other places. However, the game's.....Ah, no, in that world—Magimatics were not counted as people. If you are counted as a tool in my possession, it may be possible for you to trans....."

After saying that much, he thought "I guess it's cruel to treat her like a tool".

Rose made a face that looked like she was going to cry.

"Master....."

"Ah, uh, sorr.....no....."

A Demon King that would apologise to a Magimatic Maid, was no good.

However, how should he follow up on that—there was no meaning in him worrying about that.

Rose broadly smiled.

"How fantastic! To be told "counted as a tool" by Master! This Rose, is such a fortunate person!"

".....Is that, so."

"Whenever others called this Rose a tool, I would turn them into a stain on 《Asterismos》 but.....By all means, Master, please use Rose as a tool for many years to come. Whether it be day or night."

"Whether it be day or night huh."

"Ufufu.....At night, how would you use me? Nhaa....."

Rose's cheeks dyed red.

—I won't use you in a strange way, you know!?

A Magimatic Maid was a 《tool》. That sense of values meant that she was a bit different from people.

"In any case! There isn't much time! We are going to transfer!"

After coming this far and saying that so self-importantly, if the punchline was something like "the 《Angel's Feather》 could not be used in this other world"—just imagining that, a cold sweat ran down his spine.

Rem held her hand out.

".....Um.....Could I have you, hold it?"

"Ah, umu."

Diablo gripped her hand. It was small, a bit cold, and soft.

Shera grabbed his other hand. She ended up clutching onto the 《Angel's Feather》 together with him.

"And I'll be over here!"

"Wha.....!?"

Seeing that, Rose made a disapproving face, but Shera didn't mind it.

"Rose-san, you're Diablo's personal belonging, right? Wouldn't it be fine if he carried you on his back?"

"Ugh.....That is.....an attractive proposal. However, since this Rose has quite a bit of weight despite this outward appearance.....With this."

Rose pinched Diablo's clothes.

She had the outward appearance of a young lady, but she was a machine. By some chance, she might be heavy like iron.

Or maybe, the weight of the gigantic hand that appears at her back and her double headed sword are included.

If that were the case, it seemed like it would be harsh to carry on one's back even for the level 150 Diablo.

Lumachina and Horun also joined hands, and the five of them created a circle. That and one machine.

In the game, there was no need to create a circle like this.

However, if it is like this, without a doubt, no matter how or where anyone looked at them, Diablo and the others were definitely a party.

With the gist of when he used magic, he concentrated his consciousness on the 《Angel's Feather》.

—Transfer us! To Zircon Tower!!

The tower of precious stone came to his mind.

Part 2

There is probably no need to say this, but the transfer was a success. They gathered information at Zircon Tower City, and with Rem and the others

using a sand ship—Diablo headed to the battlefield with Flight Magic. By the time he arrived, the hostilities had already opened. Moreover, the armed forces of the Races was on the verge of annihilation. Several of the sand ships had fallen into a tear that seemed to have been created with magic, and they were only raising screams from the Demon King Army's assault and were unable to make an organized resistance. Diablo looked down from the sky, and used magic.

"《Lightning Meteor》!!"

Countless thunderbolts burned away the Demon King Army's assault force. When they were crowded together, the effect was huge.

In places where it turned into a melee, magic was hard to use.

In the game, damage would be given only to enemies, but in this other world, he would end up blowing them away with magic regardless of whether they were friend or foe.

"I suppose I'll leave that area to them."

A Summoned Beast clad in a white aura charged in.

It was a gigantic, three-horned bull. Due to the summoner's equipment, it had been drastically strengthened.

"Go forth, 《Aslau》!!"

Rem shouted.

It hurled itself at Demonic Beings within the melee.

"Gohah!?"

One with a lion head and large build was sent flying. With only that, there wasn't enough damage done to kill it, but the fact that this was a melee meant that there was a great number of soldiers of the Races around.

Against the Demonic Being that fell over onto the ground, they swung their swords and axes down as if they were plowing the fields with a hoe.

"Gah!? You, bashtards! Even, though, you, jusht, weak, Humans.....!?"

"That's right, we are weak Humans! That's why we're ganging up on a collapsed Demonic Being with a large number of people like this!"

"Ah.....gah.....sto.....!?"

Due to a blow that smashed its head, the figure of the lion-headed Demonic Being changed into countless particles of light.

When Demonic Beings and Demonic Beasts die, they turn into light and vanish.

This was their difference from wild animals.

Rem shouted.

"Next! A bear-looking Demonic Being is coming!"

""Understood!""

The soldiers replied.

She was an Adventurer that suddenly appeared, and moreover, she was a Pantherian woman but.....Due to her precise decisions and instructions, the surrounding soldiers naturally settled down under her command.

Every time she raised the war results, the number of soldiers that obeyed her actions increased.

The existence of the strengthened Summoned Beast that could give a hard blow to even large sized Demonic Beings, and the several MP Recovery Potions that she carried were big factors.

Within the front line that was filled with chaos, Rem's surroundings regained control despite that.

From the sky, a Demonic Beast that looked like a carnivorous bird came falling down. The breadth of its opened wings was close to about 10 meters.

"Kishaaaaaaaah!!"

"Here's a 《Triangle Shoot》!!"

A high-pitched voice of a young lady resounded.

Three arrows were fired at almost the same time.

Moreover, all of them were 《Squall Arrows》 that could penetrate the Demonic Beast's powerful Physical Defense.

If damage was made, there was the possibility of 《Petrification》. Moreover, since there were three shots, the chance of it happening also happened three times.

The gigantic Demonic Beast quickly turned into a stone statue.

It fell down, and smashed into pieces.

It turned into light.

Shera had attacked using special arrows.

She moved about on top of the sand ship sails as if they were trees of a forest—With her outstanding skill and the strongest bow and arrows, she brought down the atrocious Demonic Beast.

Moreover, her figure was beautiful to the point of being divine.

The soldiers that were rescued from the dilemma spread rumors that they were “saved by a Goddess”.

From the back, a large number of soldiers came rushing in as reinforcements.
"Oi, we'll lend ya our strength!"

"That really helps! Wait, you!? Weren't you injured and brought to the back earlier.....!?"

"Hear this and be surprised! Amazingly, we were able to be healed by the High Chief Priest-sama!"

"A huge injury like that was healed!? That's incredible!"

The Healing Miracles didn't only bring injured soldiers back to the battle. It gave the soldiers a sense of security saying that “even if they injured, they can get healed”.

In Zircon Tower City, the chapel was closed down, and distrust of the Church had spread due to the expectation of large donations but.....

Even so, to many of the soldiers, religion was a pillar of spiritual support.

The most prominent person of the Church—The High Chief Priest had come running to their aid. There was no reassuring support greater than this.

Their fear against the Demon King's Army faded, and the increase in war potential due to the reinforcements recovered the situation in the local area.

In only one spot, there was a strange place.

The Demon King Army forces that existed there suddenly disappeared.

Anything that could be called a battle did not occur.

Demonic Beings and Demonic Beasts had their corpses turn into light and vanished. Because of that, not even traces of a phenomenon remained.

A young lady was loitering there.

She was a young lady that wore an outfit that seemed to be a maid uniform that had her back largely open and exposed.

The one that had her emerald eyes looking up at the sky was the Magimatic Maid Rose.

"Ahh, Master.....How can you be so wonderful! That great figure of you lording over the land and raining down thunderbolts, truly a Demon King! All of you fools that crawl on the ground, look up! That is a Demon King! He is this Rose's Master!"

"What.....this woman? Small, look weak.....want eat....."

A Demonic Being possessing an amphibian head approached.

There were also about three other Demonic Beings there. As if it were making a collection of them, they hung several heads of the people of the Races that they killed from their waists.

If she were a normal young lady, it wouldn't be strange for her to raise a scream.

However, being hindered as she was gloating, Rose made a plainly displeased face.

"How could you be such a foolish frog? To interrupt as this Rose was giving praise to Master—"

A thick tongue stretched out from the amphibian Demonic Being's mouth. In an instant, Rose was wrapped up by the tongue, and had her movements sealed.

"This girl, eat!"

"What will you do about this? A Demonic Being's vulgar stench has gotten on the Western clothes that I received from Master. Only you, I will not kill in an instant, understand? 《Asterismos》!"

At Rose's back, a gigantic double-headed sword appeared.

The Demonic Beings were frightened and stiffened up—such a thing didn't happen. At times of battle, Demonic Beings, without hesitating, without faltering, would not stay idle.

A double-headed sword that appeared, and a mechanized hand that handled it. Against that, the four Demonic Beings made a counterattack.

Rose sneered.

"Fufufu.....Ahahaha! So you mean to challenge this Rose with such poor abilities!? Against Demonic Beings whose bodies are only big and brains are lacking, I shall teach you about what true fear is. Now then, go and die!

《Didymoi》, 《Karkinos》, 《Leon》, 《Parthenos》!!"[\[1\]](#)

As if she were singing, she announced the constellations.

As if to trace the locations of the stars, the gigantic double-headed sword chopped up the air.

It cut the skin of the Demonic Beings that would not let the weapons of the Races go through, severed their flesh, and smashed their bones. They were unable to chase after her sword slashes with their eyes which should be able to

see even a bullet fly. They possessed bodies that would regenerate limbs even if they were cut or torn off, but they ended up turning into particles of light before that ability could be exhibited.

In this place, anything that could be called a battle did not occur. Only cleaning done by the Magimatic Maid Rose had taken place.

Against her, who could overwhelm even a Huge-class Dragon, a means for lower grade Demonic Beings to oppose her did not exist.

In that place where, once again, nothing was there, Rose breathed a sigh.

"Ahh, what has this Rose done.....Even though I intended to punish it, once again, I killed them in an instant. Oh dear, since I am little miss clumsy.....With things like this, Master will be exasperated with me."



Translator's Notes:

[\[1\]](#)

Part 3

This situation had made a turn around.

Speaking of which side had killed more, the Demon King's Army had killed overwhelmingly more people of the Races.

However, the numbers were different by more than 100-fold to begin with.

The Demon King's Army which was about 300 had become close to half of that number. In contrast with that, the Races were 30,000 in good health.

The chaos settled, and control had been mostly regained.

Doing things like pulling at least soldiers up from the sand ships that fell into the tear, the reorganization of the forces continued.

Diablo descended upon the sand ship that was at the lead of the forces.

His newly equipped boots called 《Empty Sky's Dance》 possessed a Flight Magic effect, but MP was needed to use them. He wanted to avoid unnecessary MP consumption.

However, there was a familiar face on the sand ship he descended upon.

—So this was her ship!?

Diablo concealed his internal agitation, and talked as if he had arrived knowing that she was here.

"So you are alive, Zircon Tower's Feudal Lord."

"It is Lamnites."

She was in the middle of doing first-aid treatment to her side. Even if an HP Recovery Potion were used, the blood that she lost wouldn't return. She was in a state of having lost a large amount of blood, and seemed to be anemic. She was looking pale.

Diablo thought that her willpower to talk back to him even while she was dripping a cold sweat was praiseworthy.

Lamnites pointed at the enemy camp.

"You have my honest gratitude for your assistance.....However, do not lose focus! Things start from here!"

"What?"

"The enemy's commanding officer is, the Demon King Army's commander-in-chief, Vanaknes. He does not die even if his heart is shot through. And then, it seems that among his subordinates, there is a powerful Magician and a powerful Healer. Be careful of the Demonic Being that comes out from people's shadows as well."

Diablo nodded.

"Do not worry, this much was anticipated. Well, if I strike a Maximum Magic at them, they will probably withdraw....."

He turned his gaze towards the direction that Lamnites pointed at.

It was a large sized Demonic Beast that looked like turtle.

On the sofa that was installed on its shell, a young man wearing a tuxedo was seated. He had the wings of a bat.

He was embracing a female Demonic Being that had crow wings.

—Eh?

Diablo stiffened up.

In addition, a female Demonic Being with a lizard tail had brought her face close enough that it seemed like she would kiss him at any moment.

And the female Demonic Being that looked like a mermaid next to her had her face dyed red. Goodness, the male Demonic Being's hand was grabbing her plump breast.

Diablo's head refused to comprehend it. He couldn't believe it.

He leaked out a hoarse voice that seemed like it was not his own voice.

"You're kidding, right.....?"

He is rubbing her boobs.

He discovered silver rings on the fingers of the male and female Demonic Beings.

—Wedding rings!?

It was a couple.

Without a doubt, it was a couple. They were flirting and being lovey-dovey.

The inside of Diablo's head became blank.

He could hear laughter.

Who is it?

After a little while, he realized that he was the one that was laughing.

"Fuha, fuha, hahaha.....Fuhi....."

"Wha, what is it!? What is wrong, Diablo?"

Lamnites shrank away.

Was he making that astonishing of an expression? He didn't know. However, from the depths of his chest, a pitch black emotion was welling up.

In the middle of his unconsciousness, he pulled a special potion out from his pouch. It was a Boost type potion that increased his magical power.

He drank all of it up.

His magical power was strengthened to the limit.

Diablo commanded the staff in his hand, 《Tonnerre Empereur》^[1]—to transform.

The black staff opened up like a pair of scissors. A purple lightning ran through the gap of the staff that was split left and right, and a blade of plasma stretched out. It became a large sword of light.

Due to his strange atmosphere, Lamnites asked her question once again.

"I asked what is wrong, Diablo!"

".....Ahh.....There is no problem."

"It does not look like it though?"

He had no idea what kind of expression he was making right now. Merely, he informed his intention, to the one that asked him a question.

"I'm going, to kill that guy, for a bit."

"Wha!?"

Pouring his MP into the 《Empty Sky's Dance》, he activated the Flight Magic. Maybe due to his magical power being strengthened, it was a speed that he did not have before.

Like a bullet, Diablo rushed towards the large sized Demonic Beast.

The young Demonic Being man, Vanaknes, stood up.

"Oya, you are surprisingly belligerent, aren't you? Moreover, even though you should be a pure Magician, for you to challenge me to close combat....."

Surrounding the large sized Demonic Beast that acted as the headquarters, flying type Demonic Beasts were protecting it.

Diablo swung the large sword of light, 《Tonnerre Empereur • Libéré》^[2]. At the same time, he chanted.

"《Lightning Arrow》!!"

Due to the sword's effect, the magic was activated sevenfold.

With the consumption from the Flight Magic, the large sword of light, and the sevenfold magic, his MP was completely taken away. That is why, Diablo took an MP Recovery Potion out from his pouch, and replenished it.

He did not think about efficiency.

Things like cost vanished from his head.

The greatest amount of destruction! The strongest magic! Complete and thorough annihilation!

The 《Lightning Arrow》 that was fired at sevenfold turned all of the Demonic Beasts that covered the area over the large sized Demonic Beast and protected it into particles.

Vanaknes' complexion changed.

"What in the world is this.....This Magician!?"

Translator's Notes:

[\[1\]](#) French for Thunder Emperor

[\[2\]](#) French for Thunder Emperor • Released

Part 4

"I.....will do it!"

The lizard tailed female Demonic Being lined up next to the man, and fired magic. She raised a high-pitched voice.

"AAAAAAAAAAAAA—————!!"

It was a special chant.

Diablo sneered.

—You'll put your hands on top of each other's hands, cooperate and fight together, is that it? So you're boasting.

She seemed to be a Magician that specialized in the Earth attribute.

Small fist-sized rocks came flying at him at a speed faster than sound. The power of the magic that Demonic Beings use was remarkably different even at low levels.

It seemed like the level 70 《Sling Diamond》. When people of the Races use it, it would fly at a much slower speed though.

—Well, anything is fine.

《Demon King's Ring》

It would reflect all magic. The moment they reached Diablo, the small rocks were reflected back to the caster at supersonic speed.

It seems that the lizard tailed female Demonic Being was a pure Magician type. She did not evade it nor defend against it.

Fist sized holes opened on her slender body.

"Gofuh!?"

Spitting up green blood from her mouth, her eyes opened up wide.

Vanaknes, who was right next to her, became dumbfounded.

"What.....in the world!?"

"Ah.....Va.....na.....k....."

While calling out the man's name, the lizard woman's body turned into particles of light, and vanished.

The mermaid shaped female Demonic Being shouted out something that seemed like the lizard woman's name.

Diablo landed on the large sized Demonic Beast's shell.

He was about ten steps away from the opponents.

It was already a distance meant for close combat.

This short distance that could be said to be disadvantageous for Magicians—it was something that the serious Diablo preferred the most. Even if the opponent excelled in close combat.

The shadow under his feet distorted.

From Diablo's own shadow—talons came rushing out.

"How dare you! You went and killed my little sister, didn't you!? You, will die too!!"

The female Demonic Being possessing crow wings huh.

The attack extended up towards Diablo's chest.

He avoided it with a small movement. At the same time he did that, he grabbed the opponent's wrist.

He activated magic where "contact" was the requirement.

".....Everything should vanish to a world of repose《Absolute Zero》."

"Hii!?"

From the wrist part that Diablo was touching, the opponent's body became white and froze over.

Her eyes opened wide.

"N, no.....I don't want to disappear! To die.....!! S, save.....me.....!!"

"Ahh, come to think of it.....The one that said something like "if you don't want to die, then it would have been better if you weren't born in the first place", that was you, was it not?"

"Don't kill me!"

".....It's already, too late."

Due to 《Tonnerre Empereur • Libéré》's effect, sevenfold's worth of 《Absolute Zero》 was stacked up.

He supposed that he should praise the Demonic Being.

After all, she received magic that originally should have frozen her in an instant, and held out long enough for her to beg for her life.

The female Demonic Being that possessed crow wings—

In a state where only the upper half of her body came out from inside his shadow, turned into a transparent-looking ice sculpture. Before long, she turned into grains of light.

".....What the heck.....Baduta was much stronger, wasn't he?"

Diablo muttered.

The mermaid shaped female Demonic Being shouted something out. Her voice was so quiet that he couldn't hear her.

She held both of her hands out.

Was it magic? Or, could it be a special attack?

Vanaknes stopped her action with one hand.

"Stop what you are doing. This man possesses Magic Reflection. Even if you fire your special Water attribute magic, you will die, you know?"

—Hou, so he was able to understand just by seeing it once.

Vanaknes' movements were refined even at a time like this.

"I did not think that two of my wives would be defeated. I cannot see you as a mere person of the Races."

"You sure do have a lot of composure, don't you, lover boy. Just try and protect the third one—O flames of scorching heat, burst open, 《Flare Burst》."

Finally, the opponent's expression changed.

"What are you doing.....!?"

The explosion of the 《Flare Burst》 which had become sevenfold, thoroughly burned even the shell of the large sized Demonic Beast.

The large sized Demonic Beast's scream reverberated, and the shell that acted as the floor shook.

The red sofa that those guys had flirted on was incinerated.

During this time, Diablo drank an MP Recovery Potion. He recovered the amount that he consumed.

Part 5

The fumes from the explosion cleared away.

The ones remaining on top of the now mushy shell was only Vanaknes. Within his arms, the mermaid shaped Demonic Being was limp and vanishing.

Vanaknes glared at Diablo with his now deep red eyes.

"Why! Why did you drag her into this!?"

"I don't understand what you mean. With you confronting me as an enemy, what is so strange about me attacking you? To begin with, aiming for the Healer first is a reasonable strategy."

"Damn you! Damn you! I will absolutely kill you!"

The opponent kicked at the ground under his feet.

In an instant, he closed the distance between them.

As expected, this guy was a Fistfighter type.

Diablo devoted himself to evasion. He didn't do anything like fight back with his sword.

The 《Tonnerre Empereur • Libéré》 was excellent even as a large sword, but he had equipped it for the effect that changes his attacks to become sevenfold—to strengthen his magic.

He wouldn't do something as foolish as slash at a close combat specialist with an inexperienced sword.

Vanaknes opened his eyes wide.

"Why! How can you evade me!? I should have transcended the levels of the

Races! Having received power from Demon King-sama, if translated into levels, it would definitely be 160!"

"Your equipment is bad."

"What was that.....!?"

"I know nothing about the power that you received from some Demon King from somewhere but.....for something like level, it is only natural to strengthen yourself up to the upper limit. On top of that, superiority or inferiority is created depending on what kind of equipment you have. Finally, it is decided with individual skills—things like reaction speed and situational decision making."

"Impossible.....You, just what are you saying?"

"So you cannot understand. However, I have come from such a world. There is no factor that would cause me to lose against a mere Demonic Being that has meager experience in fighting against those with a superior level."

"Do not bark such nonsense! So long as I can hit! Someone like you, with just one attack! With this one attack!"

He evaded the thrusting fist.

And the next one.

And the next one after that.

"Now then.....I have gathered enough. It is about time for me to put an end to this."

"What!?"

"Once you receive this, you surely won't think of something foolish like trying to attack a town of the Races a second time. Well, you probably won't have a chance to even think about it though."

He used the item that he pulled out from his pouch, the 《Phantom Secret Stone》. Its effect was that for only an instant, he would be able to absolutely evade the target's attack.

With this, he was able to concentrate on the activation of his magic.

"O white! By means of purification from light and heat, everything return to white! 《White Nova》!!"

Diablo spread out one hand.

In the area slightly above the palm of his hand, a pure white photosphere the size of a ping-pong ball was created. He dropped that onto the shell of the large sized Demonic Beast that was acting as the ground.

The moment the light sphere made contact with the shell—

It burst open in pure white.

His sense of hearing was painted out by the thunderous roar. His field of vision had completely become white.

Para para Fragments fell, from his dry lips. Vanaknes was lying down on the sand ground.

".....Im, impossible.....just about, everything.....has vanished....."

"To think you still had breath within you....."

Standing nearby, Diablo looked down on him.

It was surprising.

So this was the sturdiness of a Demonic Being that was bestowed power by a genuine Demon King.

No wonder Lamnites commented on how he “does not die”.

To still have breath despite having received a 《White Nova》 that was increased to be sevenfold.

The other Demonic Beings and Demonic Beasts that entered the effect range, they were all extinguished without exception.

It was an annihilation.

And yet, amazingly, Vanaknes stood up. His eyeballs turned completely red and he shouted.

"D, damn you.....Damn youuuuuu——!! I won't forgive you! Ever!"

".....Be proud of the fact that you made this Demon King use his true power.

You have, without a doubt, touched upon the utmost limits after all."

"You are wrong! You are not Demon King-sama!"

Vanaknes stuck out his right hand. It exceeded its original length and stretched out.

Diablo had his neck grabbed.

"Mu?"

"《Energy Drain》!!"

".....Fumu.....Is this your trump card? For a hidden talent, it is boring."

Diablo swept 《Tonnerre Empereur • Libéré》 sideways.

The gigantic blade made from magic cut through Vanaknes' body.

"Gah!! Guh.....What incredible strength.....Even so.....Demon King-sama is..... stronger....."

"Hmph, no matter what kind of Demon King you all try to revive, this Diablo, the true Demon King, will pulverize them!"

Due to the weapon's effect, the slash became sevenfold. He was smashed to the point that one could not tell that he originally had a human form—And before long, Vanaknes turned into beads of light.

Even the hand that grabbed Diablo's neck changed into phosphorescence and vanished.

The remnants of the Demon King's Army, having no rank and file nor any control, simply tried to run away and withdrew.

When they turned around, the soldiers raised shouts of joy.

Surely, the number of people that knew of what had actually happened were few. However, the fact that the enemy army had been extinguished was clear to anyone's eyes.

Diablo drank up an MP Recovery Potion.

He then slowly walked over to where the people were excited from the victory.

Epilogue

Part 1

"Diablo———!! That was amazing!"

With the sun that was sinking in the west at her back, the one that rushed over to him while shouting was Shera.

Making a face that said 'Naturally', Diablo nodded.

"They were weaker than I thought."

"That sparkly light, it was amazing. The Demonic Beings, they went *pya~* and vanished!"

"If it is something that is needed, I am able to do that much. It was just that up until now, the replenishment was delayed."

In Diablo's treasury, he had a countless stock of potion types.

The things that he created as practice in order to increase the level of his Sub Class 《Compounder》 mostly remained.

For the meantime, it was probably unnecessary for him to worry about running out of stock.

"So that's how it was—, that's amazing! So cool!"

Shera clung onto Diablo's arm.

Munyun Her soft bulges pressed onto him.

He was seized with an impulse of wanting to touch them with his hands.

However, something like following his carnal desires and thoroughly rubbing a young lady's chest, that was not something that was allowed. It was also for the sake of maintaining their current relationship—

Shedding tears of blood in his mind, he endured it while creaking his heart.

Rather, if they were right in front of his eyes, he wouldn't have suffered this kind of hunger.

Having no way of knowing of that Diablo's hardships, together with words of praise, Shera continued to press her plump breasts up against him as if it weren't enough already.

Tayun, tayun, boyon, boyon..... (jiggle, jiggle, bounce, bounce.....)

Rem came running there.

"Diablo! It's terrible!"

"Muh?"

Celebrating victory—She didn't have that kind of atmosphere. Her face was pale.

"Please hurry, over this way!"

With Rem's guidance, Diablo's group arrived at the edge of the battlefield.

In a place that seemed to have nothing—

A single young lady was loitering there.

She did not move.

She neither smiled, nor looked this way.

Rem's voice trembled.

".....Ro, Rose.....She doesn't respond at all.....She doesn't have any injuries.....

And she doesn't move."

"No way!? I mean, it looked like she had an easy victory, you know!? She was totally composed, you know!?"

Shera raised a voice that sounded like she was going to cry.

Diablo approached Rose who ended up looking like she had truly become a doll.

"What has happened, Rose?"

Would she, no longer, look at him and smile?

Why, did she end up like this?

Was it a mistake to take her out of the dungeon?

[P! Master confirmed in the effective range—Releasing Sleep Mode—Current charge amount, 15%.]

Rose, who had hardened up like a mannequin, incessantly blinked. She smiled sweetly.

"Oh my, thank you very much for your hard work, Master."

"Wha.....? Rose, just now, you were.....What had happened to you?"

"Since it seemed that this Rose was going to run out of magical power, I went into Magical Power Conservation Mode. If I am not either in Master's base or near Master, I cannot recover magical power. No, there is a much quicker means of recovery but....."

"I had thought that you were taken down by the Demon King's Army."

"Fufufu.....This Rose is Master's Magimatic. Something like falling behind small fry such as those, that is impossible. Merely, it is a fact that Battle Mode's

magical power consumption was much larger than hypothesized."

"Be sure to not make me worry too much."

"I am terribly sorry. To think that I would make Master worry about me. But, the fact that I was able to receive Master's concern, this Rose's internal circuits are overheating, and I am feeling so happy that it feels as though they will burn out."

With her cheeks flushed, she said that.

She was a hopeless machine.

"It was not only me.....Both Rem and Shera were worried about you."

"About, this Rose?"

She turned a curious-looking gaze at them.

Rem wiped the corner of her eye.

".....Thank goodness. So it was nothing."

"Wa—n, Rose-san, I thought that you died!"

Shera tried to hug her, but Rose pushed her away with one hand.

"What is it? The ones allowed to touch this Rose, is only Master, you know? I have not fallen so low as to be worried about by you all."

Rem smiled and nodded.

".....That's true. I'm relieved to hear that you're in your usual condition."

"Uuuu—"

Shera did not know what to do with her feeling of wanting to hug her, so for some reason, she came to Diablo's side. Once again, she pressed her bulges against him.

That in itself stirred Rose's jealousy though.....

Diablo shrugged his shoulders, and told them that they were returning to Zircon Tower City.

—Well, thank goodness.

Diablo secretly breathed a sigh of relief at the fact that the three who went to the frontlines were safe.

Part 2

The rear forces—

Lumachina was tending to the treatment of the injured.

The war had ended, but it seemed that the rear was busier now than before. Moreover, there were a lot of severely wounded people that couldn't be saved by anyone other than her.

Lumachina lowered her head with a tired look.

"I am sorry, Diablo-sama. I still cannot leave even for a short while."

"Umu, so it would seem. You need not worry about me. Contact me if there is something that you require. If it is something at the base, I shall bring it over."

"Thank you very much. Ah, also, once things have calmed down here, I intend on using the town's chapel. I would like to dispel the Marked Death Disease with the 《White Cow Statue》."

"Have you discussed it with Lamnites?"

The chapel was blockaded on Feudal Lord Lamnites' orders. It was said that it took a pretty large amount of rent.

Lumachina shook her head sideways.

"Not yet. But, there aren't any other places more suitable than there.....I intend on trying to ask her about it later."

"If it is going to be like that, I shall go talk to her."

Rem nodded at Diablo's words.

".....That would be good. In this war, Diablo was extraordinary, and I believe that we also worked satisfactorily. We should be able to at least obtain the chapel's license."

"Yup, yup!"

Shera was also in agreement.

Rose made a thin smile.

"If she tries to refuse Master's request, this Rose will—"

".....Since that sort of thing will complicate things, please bear in mind the time, place, and opponent."

Having been warned by Rem, Rose glared at her.

It seemed that they weren't going to get along with each other any time soon.

"Ohh, so you were here."

The one that called out to them was the Feudal Lord Lamnites that they were just talking about.

Diablo thought that it was unexpected.

"What is this? Did you come to receive treatment as well?"

"Certainly, I have not come out of this uninjured but.....This place is a medical treatment tent for ordinary soldier-use. I have come to make an inspection and to give encouragement. It is thanks to everyone here that Zircon Tower City was protected."

"Fumu....."

She was a surprisingly hardworking fellow.

"Of course, the one with the greatest distinguished war service this time, is you though."

She looked hard at Diablo.

To be honest, he felt embarrassed.

"H, hmph, you should not be mistaken! It was nothing more than me teaching those fools that claimed themselves to be the Demon King's Army without obtaining this Demon King Diablo's permission about what only a fragment of the true Demon King's abilities looks like. It is not like I was thinking about trying to protect a town of the Races."

".....Fu.....I see, that is fine as well. Putting that aside, may I entertain you all as guests?"

"Mu? As guests huh....."

Shera raised up both hands.

"Hooray—!! It's food! Food! It's nice and warm, food—"

So she was happy enough to start singing a song. Come to think of it, they haven't had a decent meal since that dungeon food.

Lamnites made a wry smile.

"Very well, I shall have all of Zircon Tower City's energy prepare the greatest cuisine."

"Hooray—!!"

It would seem that they would be participating in the victory celebration. Even for Diablo, there was no reason to refuse.

Rem raised one hand.

".....Um, Feudal Lord-sama, I would like to consult you about the matter of the chapel."

"Hou?"

"We have brought back a treasured article that cures the Marked Death

Disease. Could we use the chapel for a low fee as a place to make it available to the public? This is also a request from the High Chief Priest."

Lamnites turned her gaze towards her.

Even now, Lumachina was in the middle of healing injured soldiers with miracles.

The other priests were also the same.

Lamnites shook her head left and right.

"That is rejected."

".....Why is that!?"

"There is no way I could collect something such as rent from the distinguished people that saved the town. It is to the point that I have no way of showing my gratitude to you all and the High Chief Priest. From now on, you may freely use the chapel. If there are any parts that require repair, I shall deal with it as much as possible."

Going *Ohh!*, voices leaked out from the priests.

Lumachina put both of her hands together, and expressed words of gratitude towards Kami-sama and the Feudal Lord.

And not just the priests, even the injured soldiers that happened to be present and the normal medical treatment soldiers offered their prayers in a similar fashion.

Diablo talked with a gentle voice.

"You have become quite amicable, haven't you, Lamnites."

Going *Ha!*, she shrugged her shoulders.

"I would be feeble minded if I were unable to comply with situation, would I not? As long as the Demon King has revived, it feels as though the dominion of the Races, let alone Zircon Tower City, would turn into scorched earth in a flash unless people of all positions join their strength together. If it can guarantee a cooperative relationship with the Church, then something like a chapel is cheap. That is simply all."

"Fumu.....I suppose I shall leave it at that."

"Nna!? H, hmph! You as well—It feels as though you are a different person compared to that time."

"That time, you say?"

"The time that you headed towards Vanaknes. I had thought 'isn't this fellow

the real Demon King'. You had made that sort of face, you know?"

Since blood was rushing to his head at the time, he couldn't remember it all that well. Was he really that different from how he was now?

Diablo crossed his arms and took his gaze off of her.

"There is no need for you to know about that."

—The trigger was jealousy, but since the result ended up with defeating the Demonic Beings, it shouldn't matter, right?

Lamnites' adjutant came calling for her. It seemed that she busy with various things.

Diablo's group was told to come to Zircon Tower City's plaza in the evening.

Part 3

Zircon Tower City • Plaza, Evening—

A lavish victory celebration was prepared.

As if to say that it was here, a large amount of reserves were set out.

Amazingly, Diablo's group had seats next to Feudal Lord Lamnites prepared for them. Lamnites herself had not yet appeared.

Once she came, that would surely be the start of the victory celebration.

The staff officers of the army sat on the right side of the Feudal Lord seat. And then, the left side was seats for Adventurers and those related to the Church.

It had ended up being that sort of layout. Within that left line, Diablo was in the highest position.

—Being in a seat that gets this much attention, the burden on my communication disorder heart is huge, you know!?

Rose was at his back, waiting upon him. She did not eat. Rather, since she was receiving a supply of magical power from Diablo right now, it could be said that she is in the middle of her meal.

To his left, Rem, Shera, and then Lumachina were seated.

One seat was open. Diablo asked a question.

"Where is Horun?"

Lumachina tilted her head.

"She had given her help when I was treating those that were injured though.....?"

"She had come to the plaza. She had a hesitant look when we were coming up on stage though."

—Even I didn't want to be in a place that stood out like this either after all. I sat down though since coming up to the seat but then turning it down was lame.

"Come to think of it, it kind of felt like she was worrying about something, didn't it—?"

".....Now that you mention it, she might have."

Diablo didn't notice Horun's state at all.

He stood up.

"I will go and feel the wind for a bit."

"Me too....."

He stopped Rem and others with one hand as they had gotten halfway up.

If all of them left, it felt like Lamnites would complain to them afterwards.

Rem nodded.

".....That's true. There is also the matter with the chapel. You could say that deepening friendly relations with the Feudal Lord and the staff officers here is an important job."

"Ah, now I get it."

Lumachina nodded. She was a girl ignorant of that sort of political bargaining.

Shera couldn't take her eyes off of the cooking.

"I'll, do my best, with Diablo's portion too, okay!?"

".....Be sure to bring a bit to back to the inn, got it?"

He stepped down from the stage.

It felt like his body had become immensely lighter!

"Horun～? Horun～?"

Even if he called out like that as if he were calling for a cat, there was no way she would come out.

Diablo walked along the street as part of his stroll. The main street was in revelry.

Since it was a reversal from a desperate situation, their joy was probably huge.

—I can't get close to a place like that.

She looked like she was worried about something, if that was the case.....She

was probably in a much quieter place.

"The inn?"

He tried going back to the inn that Lamnites prepared for them.

The dagger, 《Shadow Knife》, was there. In addition to that, the ability-strengthening type mantle and accessories, and the HP Recovery Potions were placed on the desk.

It was all of the stuff that Diablo gave her. No, only the Western clothes, the 《Treasure Mini》, wasn't left behind.

And then, even the rewarded gold coins that came from the Feudal Lord for having participated in the war, all of it was left behind.

".....What is the meaning of this?"

Did she only leave behind her adventure-use tools at the inn? It didn't feel that way.

The accessories were things that didn't need to be taken off, and if she was going bring along her old dagger, there was no reason to leave the Shadow Knife behind.

—Could it be, she doesn't plan on coming back?

Diablo clicked his tongue.

If you're going to leave, then do what you want, is what he thought.

Diablo had a trauma about people leaving him. Chasing after them was painful enough that his heart felt like it would break.

"But, if there are words of a farewell, I know that they should be heard from the person themselves. No matter how painful they are."

—The mistake from the time with Shera, I won't have a repeat of that!

He rushed out of the inn. The sun had already set.

Voices making toasts in the victory celebration could be heard from the plaza.

Part 4

"Ow."

Diablo noticed Horun's voice. His hearing wasn't as sharp as Shera's, but it was better than the average person's.

It was a vacant lot where materials used in the war were piled up.

Diablo peeked into the shadows of the wooden crates.

Horun was there!

She was on the ground after falling onto her bottom.

It seemed that someone picked a fight with her.

The opponents were four man group of Pantherians.

If he remembered correctly, they were the guys that Horun was disputing the rewards of the dungeon exploration with when he had first seen her in town.

The man with a particularly good body build hung the 《Red Sword》 on his waist.

"Oi, Horun-chan? Ta think that ya were a woman—"

"Uu....."

"We went to the war, but we didn't meet with any really strong Demonic Beings, ya see—. Just went we thought that it'd drag on, it quickly came to an end. The feeling of not knowing what to do with this leftover power. The feeling of lacking F (Furis). You understand, right?"

"Is that so -ssu ka."

"Then whaddya know? It was a surprise, the weakling Horun was a member of the distinguished party! I was flabbergasted. But we got lucky. Ya got a lot as a reward, right?"

"I did but.....I left it back at where everyone else is -ssu."

"Don't go makin' such lame lies. Come on, make with a bit of campaign funds. We're always, lookin' after ya, right? Show us a sign of gratitude."

"Even if it was the same adventure.....It was completely different -ssu."

"Aahn?"

"The adventure with everyone, it was fun -ssu! All I did was drag them down, but it was the best -ssu! I was the worst and didn't do anything though! But, everyone, was amazing.....Too amazing....."

Horun's eyes were moist.

The Pantherian man tilted his head.

"What are you talkin' about, kora? We're in a hurry, so leave the talkin' to yerself for later. The chairs at the pub are gonna get filled."

"What, level 80 -ssu ka! You guys aren't even half as strong as Shera-san -ssu!"

".....Hohoo?"

The atmosphere of the Pantherian men changed.

From their foolishly laughing attitude, they let out an open bloodlust. Even guys like these, they were more or less Adventurers. Only their intimidating air was strong.

Horun drew her cheap dagger.

"No more! I, I.....won't let myself be threatened to do what you say, any more - ssu!"

"It kinda feels like, yer misunderstandin' somethin' here, ya know, Horun-chan?"

"Uuu.....?"

"I bet, ya got scared from bein' evaluated beyond yer position, and ran away, didn't cha? If it were true, you'd be in a seat right in the center of the victory celebration, wouldn't cha?"

"Uu"

Horun flinched.

Her summoned up courage was easily broken by his persistent mental attacks. The other Pantherian guys sneered.

"Ain't that just grand! Bein' a member of the distinguished party, that's a lot of responsibility ta bear for you whose only specialty is ta sneak and hide, ain't it!? If that's the case, I'll switch with ya! Introduce my great self to 'em!"

The four Pantherian men talked with amongst each other saying whatever they liked.

"Did ya see her, that black panther girl! Ain't she a perfect match fer Aniki!?" "Ou, I was actually thinkin' just that! Guhahaha!" "The Elf girl was also amazin'. Ta think that there were Elves with huge boobs like that—" "Only problem is that High Chief Priest, even if her looks are good, she looks like pretty uptight."

The lead man shrugged his shoulders.

"That's it. In the end, that party is just a bunch of extras to the High Chief Priest, ain't it? They became distinguished just 'cause of that, I bet."

—I suppose it's about time to come out. It feels like my head will hurt if I carelessly listen to these guys' words any more than this.

However, right when Diablo was about to move.

"Take that back!"

Horun shouted.

Readying her dagger, she shouted once more.

"Take that back right now! Don't make fun of m, my.....of my companions! Everyone, everyone, they're the realest of the really super duper amazing people! And then, everyone, they did their best with all of their power in order to save the town! They're different from you cheapskates that try to earn points by showing your faces a bit in places that seem like you can win in!"

Going *un, un*, the Pantherian man nodded.

".....So, are ya okay with those bein' yer last words? By tomorrow mornin', you'll be floatin' in the central lake."

The other three snorted.

"Ah~ah, she made Aniki seriously snap."

"Ya died—, Horun-chan. Ya just died—."

"Fer the time bein', how about ya try takin' out some money? Ya've still got one chance dependin' on the amount, ya know?"

Horun didn't falter.

"If I don't fight, when my companions are being made fun of.....I would never forgive myself -ssu!"

"Ya idiot! Even if ya forgive yerself, my great self won't forgive ya! Die, ya weakling pipsqueak!"

The Pantherian man drew the long sword on his waist, the 《Red Sword》. Flames sparkled on the blade.

He held the long sword aloft.

Diablo held back his feelings of wanting to go out. He believed in Horun.

Slash—

Horun jumped to the side, and avoided it.

"Teiya!"

She slashed at the Pantherian man's hand with her dagger.

It hit.

A small amount of blood scattered about.

The Pantherian man threw his head back.

"That hurt! Ya damned shitty pipsqueak! Ya went and cut me!"

—Nicely done!

Diablo tightly gripped his fist.

The Pantherian man yelled out.

"Oi, guys! Pin her down on the ground! Just like always, I'll thrust the finisher in!"

Even with that kind of pattern, would their level really go up?

No matter how much Horun fought back in confident, she wouldn't put up much of a fight with it being one-on-four to begin with. Moreover, her opponents were Pantherian men with good physiques. They were the ones that excelled in physical strength the most among the Races.

She ended up being pinned down.

The Pantherian who had his wrist cut raised a vulgar laughter.

"Hey Horun-chan, ya've gone and done it now, ya know? I'm gonna strip ya naked, and thrust this sword through ya from yer ass. Hey everyone, let's bet on how far we think it'll go before she dies."

Jyari Diablo stepped on the sand with his foot.

"It reeks. The stench of monsters is in the air, you pieces of garbage."

The bunch of Pantherians glared this way.

Diablo stepped out in front of them from the shadow of the wooden crates.

"Horun, I cannot praise you for walking the streets at night alone. Monsters appear even in the middle of town after all."

"D, Danna!? Why.....!?"

The men shouted at him.

"You, yer part of the distinguished group!?"

"Tsk! We'll crush this guy, and get his bounty! And while we're at it, let's take the black panther girl!"

"Right.....Now that we've been seen, we can't go back empty-handed, right?"

The Pantherian possessing the 《Red Sword》 drew near Diablo.

Going *hehe*, he stuck his tongue out and laughed.

"So what if yer distinguished. Yer a Magician, right? Against me, a level 80 Warrior, the match was decided the moment the distance was this close!"

He struck his sword at Diablo.

Diablo stopped the blow with one hand.

".....Compared to a level 160 Warrior-type Demonic Being's attack, it's slow, weak, and look's like mere child's play. It's not worth considering."

Right now, the armor that he had equipped, 《Gigantes Mail》, primarily strengthened his physical abilities. It was because he concluded that in this

world, having that was much more useful.

It was a situation where he could immediately verify that.

Having his sword grabbed, the Pantherian man panicked.

"Wha!? Why!? Let go! Let go! Why isn't it cutting!?"

—It's because I have the 《Supreme Ruler's Bangle》 that cuts damage below a fixed value equipped on me. Something like catching a blade won't injure me.

"What's wrong? Wasn't I just an extra to the High Chief Priest?"

"Kuh! Screwin' around with me.....Oi, get this guy!"

The guys that pinned Horun down turned this way and drew their swords.

"Uoooh!""Kill him!""Die!"

"You fools, as long as you have the intent to kill, you won't have any complaints if you get killed, right?"

Diablo chanted his magic.

The entire vacant lot was frozen.

Part 5

Carrying Horun, who had become unable to stand, on his back, he walked to the inn.

"This is, only a special occasion, got it?"

"U, un, I know -ssu. Um.....Why, were you there?"

".....It was the result of searching for you. It's only natural."

"For me!? But, isn't it the middle of the victory celebration right now.....?"

—It's because food wouldn't pass through my throat being in a seat as conspicuous as that.

Not knowing how she should take Diablo's silence, Horun shed tears.

"I, I.....didn't prove useful at all -ssu. That's why, I thought that I shouldn't be allowed on that seat....."

"Didn't prove useful? So what?"

"Eh?"

"Did someone tell you to leave?"

".....I wasn't told that -ssu."

"In that case, do you want to leave?"

"Th, there's no way I would -ssu, but.....Someone that just drags everyone

down, it's normal that a party wouldn't need them -ssu."

"Something like the values of other groups don't matter. No one told you to leave. You aren't thinking that you want to leave. In that case, there is no need for you to leave. Am I mistaken somewhere?"

Horun was trembling on Diablo's back.

Pota pota Transparent drops spilled over and fell.

She started sobbing.

"You aren't.....wrong -ssu. II.....want to be, together with everyone -ssu....."

Diablo opened the inn's door.

"In that case, stay together with us for as much as you like. There is no one that would drive you out."

To be continued



Afterword

Thank you very much for reading the fifth volume of 『Isekai Maou to Shoukan Shoujo no Dorei Majutsu』.

This is the author 『Murasaki Yukiya』.

This volume was about him conquering his own dungeon himself and powering up.

The Magimatic Maid Rose-san was only established in the planning stage, but she's finally made her appearance. She's a bit of a yandere, but since she isn't a bad girl, I would be happy if you show some affection for her.

In the past, I was told 「A light novel will not be popular if it goes underground」, and there was a period where the atmosphere was one that said that dungeons shouldn't be allowed but.....being able to write freely like this, I thought that the fantasy boom was the best.

I am happy if you were able to enjoy it.

In the next volume, Diablo's group will finally march into the royal capital—that is the plan.

It is the finale to the Church arc. Best regards.

This is some advertisement—The second volume of the comic by means of Fukuda Naoto-sensei has been published at the same time as this book. Since it's fully loaded with fun different from the original novel, by all means, please try reading it.

The serialization is in the WEB manga Niconico Seiga 『Wednesday Series』. It is currently free and open to the public.

Thanks—

Tsurusaki Takahiro-sensei, thank you very much for the illustrations that are wonderful as always. Although it feels like you're somewhat jumping over various things with them, they're the best!

Designer from Afterglow, Ooishi-sama, thank you very much this time as well. Shouji-sama who is in charge of editing, I am sorry for being late once again..... Being told 「Since Volume 5 will be released during Golden Week, be early with

it」, I feel like I answered with 「I know. It will be alright!」 but.....I am sorry for only making it just in time again and again and again. Thank you very much as always.

Everyone of the Kodansha Lightnovel Bunko Editorial Department and people of the staff. Family and friends that gave me support.

And then, I give my highest level of gratitude to the dear readers that read this. Thank you very much!

Murasaki Yukiya
